ORGANIZE FOR RELIEF WORK IN THREE POLANDS

New Committee Formed to Aid Sufferers From European War.

PADEREWSKI TO BE CUSTODIAN OF FUNDS

To aid the three Polands, German, Austrian and Russian, the Polish-American Relief Committee was organized yesterday at the home of Howard Van Sinderen, 520 Park avenue. Ignace Paderewski, the pianist, will act as agent for the committee in Poland at his own suggestion. Subscribers to the fund may designate which of the three Polands they wish to help. Cardinal Farley will give some of the funds he has collected to the committee.

Herbert L. Satterlee, who presided at the meeting, was elected temporary chairman of the committee. In a speech Mme. Sembrich said the Polands were worse off than Belgium. She hoped there would be a quick response to the call for funds "for a country in the greatest need of immediate help of any in the war zone." She announced she would give a concert to help swell the fund.

Temporary headquarters of the committee will be opened at 105 West Fortieth street. The first business meeting will be held next Thursday.

Those interested in the movement besides those already mentioned include Mme. Curie, former Ambassador to Russia Curtis Guild, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, Mrs. Walter Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lewinski-Corwin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Underwood Johnson, Henry L. Higginson of Boston, Mme. Antoinette Adamowska and her husband, Timothee Adamowski, Charles Schwab, Mrs. J. F. D. Lanier, Mrs. John Hays Hammond, Mrs. Archer Huntington, Mrs. W. Bourke Cockran, Miss Eleanor Blodgett and Mrs. Howard Van Sinderen.

Thanked by Duchess.

The Committee of Mercy yesterday gave out a letter from the Duchess of Marlborough and other members of the American Women's War Relief Fund thanking the committee for the collections for the hungry and destitute of England and the thousands of refugees who are pouring into the country through London. The letter asks for clothing as well as money.

An appeal for aid for 2,000,000 Jews who have been driven from their homes in Russian Poland was made by the American Jewish Relief Committee, which gave out a cable message from the Petrograd office of the Jewish Colonization Association, saying the great number mentioned does not include the Jews suffering exile and destitution in Galicia. The relief organization in Petrograd is doing all it can, but makes an appeal for American aid. Money may be sent to Felix M. Warburg, 52 William street.

The Belgian Relief Fund received yesterday $7,028.20, making a total of $634,778.51. L. A. Ault made a second contribution of $1,000 to this fund. The Dollar Christmas Fund for Homeless Belgians received $1,418 yesterday, making a total of $29,030. The Prince of Wales National Relief Fund received $1,330.60 yesterday, making a total of $82,554.03. The Committee of Mercy Fund reached $55,609 yesterday, the day's receipts being $421.90.

Red Cross Total $396,513.

The New York board of the American Red Cross received $1,308.05 yesterday for the European war fund, making the total contributed $396,513.36. The American Ambulance Hospital Fund received $1,238. The French Relief Fund received $260.70, making a total of $42,209.46.

Extensive ceremonies will attend the sailing to-day of the first ship from this port under the auspices of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, from the Erie elevators in Jersey City. The Maskinonge, chartered by the commission, has been selected to carry the cargo of more than 6,000 tons of wheat and foodstuffs.

Miss Marie Planet sent a package of yarn to THE SUN'S Princesse de Poix Fund for French soldiers yesterday. The next shipment will be sent to Paris on the Rochambeau, sailing from New York Saturday.

The Prince George Hotel announced that 10 per cent. of the receipts on New Year's eve will be given to the Committee of Mercy Fund. The gross receipts of Castle House at East Forty-sixth street and Madison avenue on the opening night will also go to the Committee of Mercy. Mrs. John Corbin will be in charge of the opening.

The Vacation War Relief Committee will repeat the ballet of "Pandora's Box" at the Forty-fourth Street Theatre on Friday.

GERMANS HOLD U. S. OFFICIAL.

A. S. Cochran, Embassy Despatch Bearer, Stopped at Frontier.

BERLIN, Dec. 8, via The Hague and London, Dec. 9.—Alexander Smith Cochran of Yonkers, who is acting as despatch bearer between the American embassies at London and Berlin and London and Paris has been held up by the German authorities at the Dutch frontier, according to word received by Ambassador Gerard. Mr. Cochran is carrying diplomatic despatches and has full credentials. An investigation is under way to learn the cause for his detention.

According to the information received here Mr. Cochran left London several days ago with diplomatic correspondence for the embassy at Berlin.

The American Ambassadors at London, Berlin and Paris hitherto had been dependent upon chance travellers to carry their despatches. Mr. Cochran chanced to be in London and volunteered to act as messenger. He was put on the payroll at a nominal salary and became officially an employee of the United States Government.

Alexander Smith Cochran is the principal owner of the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company of Yonkers. He sailed from New York on November 14 on his own initiative to investigate the needs of the Belgian population.

BEYERS'S BODY NOT FOUND.

Last Seen of Boer Rebel He Was Drifting Down Stream.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Details of the fight in which Gen. Christian Frederick Beyers, the Boer rebel leader, is believed to have been killed have been received from Pretoria. The death of the leader has not been completely established, but it is not believed that he escaped.

While engaged by a loyal commando on the banks of the Vaal River, Gen. Beyers and others of his commando tried to cross. They were fired on and Gen. Beyers was seen to fall from his horse and drift down stream and then to disappear under the water. His body has not been recovered.

If Gen. Beyers is dead his death removes the last of the important rebel leaders. Gen. De Wet is a prisoner and Col. Maritz is a fugitive. Most of the rebel commandos have been broken up.

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THINKS JAPAN MAY RETAIN KIAO-CHOW

Washington Knows of No Pledge to Return Port to China.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Official announcement by Baron Kato, Foreign Minister of Japan, that the Government had not decided the question of the retention of Kiao-chow and that no pledge had been given that it would be restored to China attracted much attention here to-day.

This statement corresponds with the understanding in official quarters here, although it is well known that the impression was widespread that Japan had pledged herself to restore Kiao-chow to China. It was pointed out some time ago in these despatches that a large and growing element in Japan was prepared to bring great pressure on the Government in favor of the retention of Kiao-chow and that because of the slender hold of the present Cabinet upon the political situation there it might be compelled to yield to this pressure. As a matter of fact it is expected here that the question will remain undecided until the end of the war in Europe.

The shrewdness of Great Britain in sending forces to participate in the siege of Tsing-tao won for her the right to a voice in the disposition of the territory taken from Germany. Naturally England will be disposed to await the result of the conflict in Europe before attempting to decide her position as to affairs in the East. Meanwhile Japan will retain possession of Kiao-chow.

The Japanese view of the affair is that while in the ultimatum presented to Germany Kiao-chow was demanded of her "with a view to the ultimate restoration to China," that proposition and that pledge became of no force with the failure of Germany to accept the ultimatum. Having been forced to spend men and money in taking Kiao-chow Japan argues that the situation is different now and that Japan could hardly be expected to give it up, and certainly not without compensation.

It is true many friends of Japan abroad and many prominent Japanese officials are in favor of giving Kiao-chow back to China. This proposal is urged as a means of wiping out at one great stroke the many causes of bad feeling existing between China and Japan. Count Okuma in an article for an American magazine declared that Japan had no desire for new territory and that the world could rest secure in the assurance that his country would fulfil with honor all her pledges. No such pledge was ever made officially, however. The assurances received here from Great Britain related only to the limitation of Japanese operations.

Recent advices from Japan show that the movement in regard to Kiao-chow is fast gaining strength. Not only that, but irritation is being shown that the Japanese Government has not an absolutely free hand in the present war and the Government is being attacked for what is alleged to be its subserviency to Great Britain.

EXPECTS JAPAN'S AID.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Dec. 9.—The *Temps* says editorially:

"The Mikado's words have a significance of which the trend cannot be mistaken. He reminds his subjects that he counts on their bravery and loyalty to reach the final end of a definite victory as soon as possible. He announces at the same time publicly that the Allies may depend upon the decisive cooperation of Japan. The imperial words show that the Japanese army is ready to cross the seas if necessary to put an end to the war which must save the peoples of two hemispheres from German economic and political domination."

Jean Richepin, the academician, treats the same subject in *L'Intransigeant*. He says there are only three objections to making an appeal to the Japanese: The cost, the question whether it would be deemed unworthy of Europe, and the risk that the Japanese might become a danger in the future.

M. Richepin is unwilling to admit that there is the slightest doubt of the final victory of the Allies, but says that with the help of the Japanese victory would be immediate. He considers that any price paid to the Japanese would be well invested and easily paid from the German indemnity, which he estimates at a hundred milliards of francs ($20,000,000,000).

"Those pretending that this step is unworthy of Europeans," he continues, "bring themselves to the level of the Kaiser with his 'yellow peril.' The ancestors of the Germans were eating roots and acorns in caves when the Japanese already possessed a history."

M. Richepin dismisses future danger as nothing compared with the present danger from "barbarians."

Stephen Pichon, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, in an editorial in the *Petit Journal*, professes to see Japanese willingness to send troops to assist in the campaign in Europe in the speech of Baron Kato, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, before the Japanese Diet.

POINCARE BACK IN PARIS.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Dec. 9.—President Poincare and Premier Viviani returned to Paris from Bordeaux to-day. M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, left Bordeaux this morning for Paris and the members of the diplomatic corps are returning later to-day and to-morrow.

All Deputies and Senators who are under arms have received permits to absent themselves from their regiments from December 16 until three days after the close of the session. Those Senators and Deputies who are members of the budget, finance, army and navy committees, will begin to leave the front for Paris to-morrow.

RUSSIAN REVENUES DECLINE.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 9.—Statistics of the receipts of the Government spirits monopoly for September were $852,070, as compared with $38,298,215 in September, 1913.

HERRICK GETS WARM GREETING ON HOMECOMING

Dodges Presidential Bee, but Is Enthusiastic on Relief Work.

LEAVES FOR ANOTHER WELCOME IN OHIO

Myron T. Herrick, the Ambassador who proved a friend in need to countless numbers of many nations, returned yesterday with Mrs. Herrick on the steamship Rochambeau from his post in Paris, where he won the affection not only of Americans but of the entire French nation.

The cordial, heartfelt reception that greeted Mr. and Mrs. Herrick down the bay, at the pier and at the Waldorf-Astoria prior to their leaving for Cleveland was remarkable. Never has a returning Ambassador been so enthusiastically greeted.

The welcome home was as broad and deep as his admirers could possibly make it without becoming formal. There were on hand to greet him at least sixty Ohioans who had come here specially from the Buckeye State for that purpose. Mayor Mitchel and the heads of many of the city departments waited at the pier to congratulate him on his splendid work abroad.

A committee from the Chamber of Commerce, bankers, merchants, lawyers and politicians appeared to welcome him. Representatives of the Democratic, the Republican and the Progressive party were on hand to join in the homecoming celebration, among them being William F. McCombs, chairman of the National Democratic Committee; Henry W. Taft, brother of ex-President Taft, who appointed Mr. Herrick for the post in Paris, and A. L. Garford, who last fall was the Progressive candidate for Governor of Ohio.

Tourist Friends on Hand.

Many persons went to greet him out of pure gratitude for help received when as tourists in Europe they found themselves marooned in Paris at the outbreak of the war. That sentiment was expressed by one man, who as he wrung the retiring Ambassador's hand at the pier said feelingly: "I shall never forget what you did for me in Paris on August 30."

The cheers, the expression of praise and congratulation and the words of welcome were received by Mr. Herrick with sparkling eyes and happy words of appreciation, while Mrs. Herrick, her eyes glowing with pride, stood beside her husband carrying a huge bunch of American Beauty roses. Beside her stood a messenger with a still greater bunch, while scores of friends had sent great bunches of roses, chrysanthemums and other floral greetings to their hotel.

Mr. Herrick entered into the spirit of welcome with the zest of a boy and the grace of a finished diplomat. As he stood by his wife at the head of the companionway to the promenade deck when the liner was swinging into Pier 57 he waved his hat to the hundreds standing on the pier and cheering him.

Tall and graceful, he was a veritable picture in brown, for he wore a brown overcoat, a brown hat and a brown suit that was relieved by a black string tie with a delicate design. His face was slightly tanned, as if he had spent much time on deck on the stormy trip across.

He wore in his buttonhole a little red ribbon that represented the honor of which he had been told by Capt. Dumont on Monday. Word had been sent by wireless to the captain that President Poincare of France had conferred on Mr. Herrick the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, the greatest honor which the French Government can bestow. The ribbon was conferred by Capt. Dumont in the presence of the passengers. The cross will be sent to him.

Dodges Presidential Bee.

While Mr. Herrick appreciated the sentiment behind the welcome home he was not prone to let some of the delegation from Ohio make his homecoming a Presidential boom for 1916. He was greeted by his friends as "the next President," but he answered all queries concerning politics with a frank determination not to let politics overshadow the sentiment of homecoming.

"Please don't ask me about such things," he said when the Presidency was brought up. "I don't know anything about politics, and while this reception has been perfectly fine I am embarrassed by the splendid feeling behind it. I only did my duty in Paris. I only worked, and there was plenty of work to do. I did nothing that was not in my line of duty and I do not intend to make political capital out of it."

Then Mr. Herrick turned to the work being done for stranded Americans in France and for the stricken French people. By discussing the good that can be done through the American relief clearing house in Paris he diplomatically steered away from all other questions.

From the time the Rochambeau left Quarantine shortly before 8 o'clock in the morning Mr. Herrick and his wife were the centre of enthusiasm. Dock Commissioner R. A. C. Smith, with Parmelee W. Herrick, the ex-Ambassador's son, first boarded the vessel. Then Daniel O. Sprague, acting Deputy Collector of the Port, went on board the Rochambeau to inform Mr. and Mrs. Herrick that the freedom of the port had been granted them.

"That's lucky," said Mr. Herrick laughingly, "for I have hardly a cent left with which to pay duty."

Next came a committee representing the Ohio Society and the delegation from Ohio, W. H. Truesdale, president of the Ohio Society and also of the Lackawanna railroad; Colgate Hoyt, Ralph Wallace, William I. Ohmer, who is booming Mr. Herrick for the Presidency, and H. O. Van Hort of Cleveland.

On the way up the river Mr. Herrick met Philip J. Roosevelt, a cousin of the former President, to whom he delivered a package supposed to contain an engrossed parchment copy of an address delivered by Col. Roosevelt in Paris before the Sorbonne in 1910.

Ohio Delegation Enthusiastic.

By the time the Rochambeau was slipping into her dock at Fifteenth street shortly after 9 o'clock the entire Ohio delegation, every one of whom wore a white chrysanthemum almost the size of a Rugby football, had reached the pier. It was an enthusiastic cheering crowd that waved to Mr. and Mrs. Herrick as the ship was being warped into her berth.

At the gangplank waited Mrs. Parmalee W. Herrick, Mr. Herrick's daughter-in-law, and Mrs. Harriet Gray, a sister of Mrs. Myron T. Herrick. They were escorted by Bosscront d'Anglade, French Consul in New York, and Paul Faguet, New York agent of the French line. The moment the gangplank was in place the four went on board.

Crowd Cheers Wildly.

Surrounded by friends he was escorted to the reception room on the pier, which had been decorated with the American, French and Ohio State colors and with great white chrysanthemums. There the welcomers swarmed about Mr. and Mrs. Herrick. Everybody seemed bubbling over with enthusiasm. Mayor Mitchel, who was among the first to greet Mr. Herrick, chatted with him for several minutes. There were cheers for "Ambassador Herrick" and for "Mrs. Herrick" until everybody seemed to have hurrahed himself or herself hoarse.

Among the Ohioans present on the pier were Mr. and Mrs. George Kinney and Miss Kinney of Cleveland, Andrew Squiers, S. L. Pierce, Judge William B. Saunders and many others. They told Mr. Herrick that they had reserved a suite for him at the Waldorf-Astoria and had engaged transportation for him for the 6 o'clock train leaving over the New York Central for Cleveland. He was told he simply must take that train, because a rousing welcome had been prepared for him this evening.

Immediately after the reception in Cleveland he will hurry to Washington to make his report of his work to President Wilson. Until then, he said at his hotel, he could not discuss the situation in France.

"There is one thing that I can talk about," he said earnestly, "and I would like to have the American people understand fully what the American Relief Clearing House in Paris is doing. It is really splendid the way that the American people have shown their hearts in seeking to help the people of France and of other countries, in fact, that are in distress through the war.

"We have started the work there in a thoroughly systematic manner and it can be carried on now in a way that everybody can understand. You see in many previous catastrophes there has been no organized relief system. The result has been waste and duplication of effort.

"It occurred to some of us over there in Paris that the American organizations engaged in doing relief work should have a clearing house in Paris. A clearing house seems to me to be the best way of expressing what we are doing. It means that the relief work can be coordinated; that everything done by Americans for France will be well done; that anybody who wants information about the work in France can get it from a headquarters which will know about every phase of the work.

"It was apparent to us that the embassy and the consulate both were overtaxed and the best thing to do would be to have a committee of fifty to handle the work. That committee, which soon was organized, has M. Hartjes at its head in Paris, and it has an auxiliary committee here with such men as Commissioner Smith, Mr. Bacon, Whitney Warren and Mr. Morgan."

Mr. and Mrs. Herrick and the Ohio delegation left for Cleveland at 6 o'clock.

NO PEACE PRIZE THIS YEAR.

Nobel Committee Resolves to Hold No Session.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—There will be no Nobel peace prize this year.

A Reuter despatch from Christiania says that it is officially announced that the parliamentary Nobel committee has resolved not to sit this year.

Silver in London Declines.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Silver suffered a sharp relapse to-day, falling to 23 1-16 owing to American sales.

Holds Congress Blameless If Nation Lacks Defence

Swagar Sherley, Representative From Kentucky, Tells of Country's Preparedness for War at Southern Society Dinner.

COAST DEFENCES HELD ADEQUATE TO REPEL FOE

Swagar Sherley, Congressman from Kentucky, chairman of the sub-committee on Fortifications of the Appropriations Committee, emphatically shifted the blame for the military or naval unpreparedness, if any there may be in this country, from Congress to "those whose business it has been to know what was needed," at the Southern Society dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria last night. It was taken to mean that he referred to general staffs, general boards of officers of both arms, and individuals who had been permitted to carry out ideas.

So far as Congress is concerned, Mr. Sherley said, in the matter of sea coast defences there has not been a single request made for armament that Congress has not granted; every gun asked for has been given. In the further matter of arms for the army, ammunition and accoutrements generally he had figures to show that everything is ready or about to be ready for an army of 500,000. The navy is well supplied with torpedoes, he said, and in short the United States is in a better condition for defence than it has been since the civil war.

Although Mr. Sherley was regarded as the principal speaker there were other notable orators and one very pretty incident. The incident occurred when W. W. Fuller, president of the society and toastmaster, arose and asked all to drink a toast with him to the "first lady of the South," Miss Mary Lee, daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Miss Lee, clad in black, was in the box of Mrs. C. E. Richmond and as she bowed her acknowledgment there was applause.

Talks About the Negro.

Then, too, Comptroller of the Currency John Skelton Williams found that his rather lengthy address, principally on the negro, in which he advocated complete segregation, had a response several speeches later, when former Attorney-General George Wickersham told him he did not think the race problems of this country can be solved by disenfranchisement. Mr. Wickersham said good citizens cannot be developed if they are allowed no voice in the lawmaking of their country. The unusual thing about this was that Mr. Williams's recommendations had gone by without applause and the former Attorney-General was applauded.

Attorney-General Gregory, the first speaker, told stories until toward the end of his speech when he paid a high tribute to President Wilson, concluding by saying that in the end it will be his hands stretched across to the surging multitudes abroad and it will be his voice that will be heard saying: "Peace, be still."

Mr. Sherley began to talk just as Mayor Mitchel arrived. Almost at the outset the young Congressman said no military policy that seeks to make us so strong that we may compel what we cannot invite will ever meet with the approval of our people.

"Let me say," he continued, "that there is no mystery as to our present condition. The facts are known to those whose duty it is to know and to those who have sought to know.

"Without considering the question whether we are not now in less danger of a war with any real Power than we have been for years let me say to you that although much that is desirable remains to be done, and in an orderly way will be done, we are in a better position of preparedness than we have been at any time since the civil war, and we are in no true sense in a defenceless condition.

"Let me first speak of our coast defences here in the continental United States and in the insular possessions." He then referred to investigations by the Endicott board and the Taft board.

Recommendations Followed.

"The Taft board's report has been modified in many particulars from time to time by the army experts and their recommendations have been followed in their entirety," he said. "From the time the Taft board report was made until this hour there has not been a single request made as to armament that has not literally been complied with. In other words, every gun asked for has been given and no departure in any particular has been made by Congress.

"I do not believe there is a well informed man in America who will not frankly admit that we have the best fortifications in the world, and I make bold to say that we are so well fortified in the United States that our fortifications will never be put to the test. We have completed the seacoast batteries of the Hawaiian Islands and will shortly complete the interior land defences. We have completely authorized and almost entirely completed the Philippine Island defences. We are very rapidly completing the Panama defences.

"Now turning to the Continental United States, we have still some auxiliaries to the defences to supply, but the defences are in splendid condition, and he who would have you believe otherwise is either ignorant or vicious. The ammunition desired is not all supplied on the basis of the need for all the guns, but some of the interior and older forts could well be abandoned so far as their need goes; we have more than 75 per cent. The maximum thought desirable is a supply sufficient for two hours continuous firing of half the guns in the United States—the theory being that we will not be threatened all along both coast lines at any one time.

"Now as to fire control, which is the technical expression for the apparatus by which the fire of the guns is controlled, we have a permanent system at eight of the fortifications and a provisional system at sixteen, and as rapidly as properly can be we are putting in permanent systems everywhere.

"Some cable is still needed, but this is being supplied. As to searchlights, we have still a minor number to supply, but arrangements have been made for the manufacture of the mirrors in America which heretofore have had to be bought abroad, and we are progressing in that."

Conditions in Army.

In speaking of the army Mr. Sherley said:

"We have on hand now or being constructed of the latest model over 730,000 rifles and in addition to that we have something over 300,000 Krag-Jorgensen rifles which are most serviceable.

"We have for ammunition for the modern rifles over 240,000,000 rounds and have a capacity of 15,000,000 rounds the first month and 30,000,000 a month after the first six months.

"Of 170,000 pistols on hand 75,000 are old models, but they are being replaced.

"We have personal equipment for more than 500,000 men."

Mr. Sherley said he regretted the ammunition for field artillery of various calibres is not all supplied in anything like the quantity desired. "We have a capacity, including private manufacturers, of about 165,000 rounds a month," he said. "For the first month or so the output would be something under that, but I am safe in saying we could within a year make 1,000,000 rounds of this ammunition."

In referring to the mobile army Mr. Sherley again admitted there should be some increase. The plans worked out by the General Staff in 1912 call ultimately for an army of 500,000. There are now in the regular army 4,701 officers and 87,781 men, including non-combatant branches, insular and Isthmus guards and coast defences, he said.

Mr. Sherley said the world admits the United States navy stands third in the world's rating, being slightly under Germany at the outbreak of the war.

"A million dollars was appropriated last year and a similar amount is being asked this year to modernize some of the older torpedoes which are not as effective as they can be made, but which are still very effective," he said.

"It may also interest you to know that of the thirty-six submarines now owned by the United States twenty-two are larger, faster and more powerful than the U-9 of the German fleet, which was responsible for the sinking of the Hawke."

WILSON WILL SANCTION LEASING OF U. S. SHIPS

Favors Amendment to Purchase Bill, Which Will Be Fought Hard.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—An amendment to the ship purchase bill providing for the lease of Government owned merchant ships and certain naval auxiliaries to shipping corporations is to be pressed with the approval of the Administration.

The amendment would allow the shipping board, a body to be created, to manage the Government's venture into the shipping field and, headed by the Secretary of the Treasury, to lease the ships which may be purchased. Provision is made also for leasing naval transports and other auxiliaries of the navy for which there is no existing need and the ships now operated by the Panama Canal Railroad Company as merchant ships. A limitation is put on the number of ships which may be leased to any single corporation.

Opposition to the Administration shipping bill is crystallizing in the House, and it becomes more certain every day that President Wilson will have his strength severely tested to bring about the passage of the measure at this session. Representative Kitchin of North Carolina, slated to succeed Representative Underwood as majority leader, said that he would oppose the Alexander bill in favor of a substitute bill providing for the leasing of ships by the Government. Mr. Kitchin believes the Government would not be justified in expending the $10,000,000 authorized by the Alexander bill at this time.

The amendment indorsed to-day by the Administration, it is contended, would pave the way for greatly simplifying the Government's entrance into the shipping business.

The President soon after he gave his support to the merchant marine proposition indicated that he would regard the building of trade with South America as sufficient justification for establishing the Government marine even if assurances were at hand that the trade with Europe would be taken care of by privately owned ships throughout the war.

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$1,500,000 IN COTTON READY FOR GERMANY

Six Ships to Transport First Great Consignment of 40,000 Bales.

The fleet of ships under American registry which is being chartered for the special purpose of carrying cotton to Germany has been increased to six, and more ships are in sight. All of the six are either loaded or are being loaded hurriedly at Southern ports for the first shipments of cotton to Germany since the war started.

The Greenbrier, with a cargo of 6,000 bales of cotton, was expected yesterday by her operators in New York to sail last night from a Southern port. The Carolyn, with a cargo of similar size, is expected to sail on Monday from Savannah. Both are destined for Bremen.

In addition to these two the Berwind is now loading at Charleston for Rotterdam with a full cargo of 6,000 bales of cotton, destined for Germany by express provision with the British, Holland and American Governments. It has been arranged that this ship will return to this country with a cargo of dyestuffs from Germany.

It was learned yesterday that three other ships whose engagement for this trade has not been previously announced are loading with cotton at the South. These are the Denver, the Pathfinder and the Kanawha.

The Denver is at Savannah and is the largest of the fleet. She will carry a cargo of about 10,000 bales to Bremen. The Pathfinder and the Kanawha are loading at Gulf ports for Bremen. Each will carry at least 6,000 bales. All of these ships, it is expected, will have left port before the end of December.

The entire war risk insurance on all the ships has been taken by the Government war risk insurance bureau. The regular marine insurance has been placed with the usual companies.

Practically the entire quantity of cotton to be transported, totalling about 40,000 bales, has been paid for or will have been paid for before the ships leave American ports. The cost price is more than $1,500,000.

The cost of transportation is said to be about 2½ cents a pound, a rate which is unprecedented, but which shippers are readily willing to pay in view of the risk and the tremendous difficulty of obtaining American vessels, insurance and the obstacles previously in the way of a guarantee of safe passage from the fleets of Great Britain and the Allies. The shipment to Rotterdam on the Berwind, it is understood, will be paid for on arrival at that port largely through the exchange of dyestuffs.

The efforts of those engaged in the chartering of the six vessels to start shipments of cotton to Germany have been untiring and against many obstacles. They believe that the present accomplishment means the beginning of substantial shipments to Germany.

WOMAN KILLED IN SUBWAY.

Crushed Between Car and Platform at Fourteenth Street Station.

Mrs. Anna G. Yates, 65, of 82 Pierrepont street, Brooklyn, fell between a car of a northbound express train and the platform at the Fourteenth street subway station in the rush hour last evening and died at Bellevue Hospital three hours later without regaining consciousness.

No one was found who saw the accident. After the train had gone on the woman was seen lying on the track and was lifted to the platform by William Steed, of 121 St. Mark's place, and Thomas Ryan, of 120 West Ninety-seventh street. In the hospital it was found that her skull was fractured and her left arm broken, and that the legs were lacerated. She was identified by her son, with whom she lived and whose card was in her pocket. He said she came to Manhattan in the forenoon to visit friends.

Mrs. Yates's son, G. L. Yates, is connected with the American Telephone Company. Mrs. Yates leaves also a daughter, Mrs. H. N. Hewson of Mount Vernon.

VICTORIA CROSS FOR DRUMMER.

Young Briton Took Command When His Superiors Fell.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Drummer Spence John Ben Ask of the Lancashire Regiment is one of two men to receive the Victoria Cross in addition to those previously announced. Near Lagnicy "after his officer, a platoon sergeant and a section commander were struck down Ask took command and succeeded in holding the position." He had distinguished himself in other ways before this exploit.

The other to receive the decoration is Lance Corporal Dobson of the Coldstream Guards, who at Chavannes "brought into cover on two occasions while under heavy fire wounded men lying exposed in the open."

Twenty officers have been named Companions of the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry.

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FRANK SENTENCED TO DIE JANUARY 22

Pleads for His Life, Saying Execution Would Stain State's Name.

DECLARES HE IS INNOCENT

ATLANTA, Dec. 9.—Leo M. Frank was sentenced to-day to be executed on Friday, January 22, for the murder of Mary Phagan, a fourteen-year-old factory girl.

Frank made an eloquent plea for his life before sentence was pronounced by Judge Ben H. Held. He said:

"May it please your Honor, this is a momentous day—a day of far greater importance to the State of Georgia, to the majesty of the law, even than to myself, for under the guise of law your Honor is about to pronounce words that will condemn to death an innocent man.

"Transcending in importance the loss of my own life is the indelible stain and dishonor resting upon the name of this State by reason of its judicially murdering an innocent man.

"The jury's verdict of August 25, 1913, finding me guilty of the death of Mary Phagan did not then and does not now speak the truth. I declare to your Honor and to the world that verdict was made in an atmosphere seething with mob violence and clamor for my life—a verdict based on evidence absolutely false which under other circumstances would not have been given a moment's credence.

"I deeply sympathize with the parents of Mary Phagan. The brute that brought so much grief upon them has plunged me into sorrow and misery unspeakable and is about to accomplish my undoing.

"But this I know, my execution will mark the advent of a new era in Georgia, where a good name and stainless honor count for naught against the word of a vile criminal, where the testimony of Southern white women of unimpeachable character is branded as false by the prosecution, disregarded by the jury and the perjured vaporings of a black brute alone accepted as the whole truth; where a mob crying for blood invaded the court room and became the dominant factor in what should have been a solemn judicial trial. Oh, shame that these things be true!

"Life is very sweet to me. It is not an easy thing to give up the love of dear ones, of wife and parents, of every loyal friends. Though this be true, death has no terrors for me. I go to my end in the full consciousness of innocence and in the firm conviction that as there is a God in heaven my full vindication must come some day. With the dawn of that day there will come to the people of Georgia a full realization of this horrible mistake, a mistake irretievable—the execution of an innocent man, a victim of judicial prejudice and passion."

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