

TINY SHIP FLEETS MEAN LOSS TO U. S.

Many of Smaller Vessels Built During War to Go Into the Junk Pile.

TRADE NEEDS BIG CRAFT

Numerous Contracts Awarded for Little Carriers Have Been Cancelled.

Asking pardon for the bull, the United States now has a fleet of white elephants on its hands.

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Many Underused Ships. The Government is well aware that it possesses a lot of underused vessels.

As to quality, the returns are not all so bright. It is to be noted that many of the hastily constructed vessels are soon destined for the junk heap.

As to the size of the steel cargo vessels that go to make up the tonnage of 8,777,000, the Shipping Board's report contains nothing to indicate what are the average 6,772 tons apiece.

Some of these ships will never be viable, for according to a statement made in Washington last week all buildings have been notified of suspension of contracts on all vessels of less than 15,000 tons which were not laid down on July 1 last.

England built some 5,000 ton ships while the war was on, but the greatest number of her new vessels are 8,000 tons and upward.

When the coal trade has little use for a ship below 7,500 tons these days. On the ordinary freighter must be able to carry a full cargo of coal.

France Buys 42 Wood Ships. SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 5.—Sailing of the French wooden ship General Pau from Puget Sound to-morrow will mark the departure of the last of forty-two vessels built for the French Government at Tacoma, Portland and Seattle yards.

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Do You Want to Borrow On Mortgage?

Don't hesitate to come to us to get a mortgage on your real estate because someone tells you that times are hard and money scarce.

We are accepting all good loans offered to us, of moderate amount on desirable residence or business property.

TITLE GUARANTEE & TRUST CO

Capital \$5,000,000 Surplus \$11,000,000 176 Broadway, N.Y., 175 Rensselaer St., Bklyn 359 Fulton St., Jamaica

URGES U. S. TO BUY RAILROAD BONDS

Francis L. Stuart Pleads for Fixed Financial Policy and Control.

Francis L. Stuart, consulting engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, told the American Society of Civil Engineers at its meeting last night in the Engineering Societies Building, 33 West Thirty-ninth street that the roads should be returned to private owners as soon as enabling legislation can be passed.

"We have great national efforts to make in world affairs," he said, "and the sooner we put the vim of an owner's interest back in the railroad business interest in the country the better."

"The normal growth of our country requires that we should spend in the next five years at least \$4,000,000,000 for improvements, betterments and normal growth of our transportation service."

"This will require a possible advance of from a billion and a half to two and a half billion dollars, for which the railroad should be charged a high enough annual interest charge, over and above the cost of the money to the government or to pay off the debt within twenty or twenty-five years."

"We might as well frank the Government should buy the railroads as needed until the public ownership ceases to be a burden."

"The principle of a fixed financial policy and control by the government necessary to carry out such a policy under ordinary business cycles should be made a law by Congress."

"The control of the railroads is largely an artificial issue and little understood by the public. The shippers of the country are chiefly interested in rate reduction and the laboring man in the amount of the rate as he really pays the bill."

"Fourth—A control of issue of securities for improvements and consolidation of the railroads is generally the weak link and should be consolidated with the strong and the large lines prevented from being so large that they eliminate competition from any section of the country."

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LEAGUE CONGRESS URGES ARMAMENT

Taft, at Opening Session Here, Sounds Plea for Nation's Support.

TO MEET IN NINE CITIES All Speakers Emphasize Necessity of Fighters Enforcing Decrees.

Adequate armament by land and sea as a guarantee of the life of the League of Nations, expected to be one of the important results of the Peace Conference, was favored by all the speakers yesterday at the opening of the session of the National Congress for a League of Nations, organized by League Taft as head of the League to Enforce Peace.

The national congress will hold its sessions until March 1 and will meet in nine different cities. Its interest is to create widespread public interest in the plan of a League of Nations, and to this end, in order to reach and include every section of the country, Mr. Taft and a group of speakers who will accompany him will be heard at each of the nine city conventions.

Each of the speakers dwelt upon the necessity for armament and the necessity of a peace which shall be entrusted for safe keeping to a League of Nations after peace has been fully established.

"You can distribute the polling of this hemisphere," said Mr. Taft, "between the nations of the world. If the United States is to be a power, it must be able to distribute it among some of the European Powers in so far as Europe is concerned."

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EFFORT TO MODIFY BRITISH EMBARGO

Series of Conferences Being Arranged in England.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—The American Chamber of Commerce in London is arranging a series of conferences between importers and exporters of goods from British manufacturers of similar articles in the hope of reaching agreements that will influence the import restrictions which the British Government has announced it will reimpose on March 1.

Importers of American goods are represented as having suffered more than other lines in the past few months, and as having been considerably gratified when, soon after the armistice, the British Government removed restrictions on the importation of these goods.

It is proposed to have conferences of representatives of each trade affected. In such conferences such conferences have been arranged.

PROTECT U. S. TRADE, SENATORS DEMAND

Continued from First Page.

When this war is over they are going to look out for Great Britain, they are going to see to it that Great Britain is not in a position to control the American trade."

"The way to have peace is to let the nations run their own business. Let them manage their own affairs; let them keep within their own rights and keep without your own, and then you will have peace."

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NEW YORK AIRMEN WIN VALOR CROSS

Four Pilots or Observers Decorated for Heroism in Aerial Fighting.

BALLOON MAN IS A HERO Repeatedly Remained at Work Until Forced to Jump With Parachute.

Extraordinary heroism in a thirty-five minute battle with thirty German aircraft near Dun-sur-Meuse, France, on September 12 last has won the Distinguished Service Cross for Second Lieut. Sigbert A. G. Norris of 489 Fifth Avenue. His name is included in the list of crosses awarded to-day in the name of the President.

Another New York aviator, First Lieut. Byron T. Hurt, Jr., of 104 West Seventy-third street, has been awarded the Balloon Section, has been awarded the cross for repeated acts of heroism in action near Orkour, France, from August 16 and near Avoucourt October 1. On each of these occasions he remained with his balloon making important observations of the enemy formation and directing the American artillery fire until his balloon was ablaze from incendiary bullets fired by German aviators.

Another New York aviator, First Lieut. Byron T. Hurt, Jr., of 104 West Seventy-third street, has been awarded the Balloon Section, has been awarded the cross for repeated acts of heroism in action near Orkour, France, from August 16 and near Avoucourt October 1.

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Troopships Due To-day

ESPAÑE from Bordeaux, January 27, with 422 officers and men, including three casual companies, respectively from New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Zepeda from Bordeaux, January 27, with seventy-three casual officers, including twenty-one of the field artillery, and fourteen of the Air Service, six men and seven officers of the Thirty-seventh Coast Artillery, and twenty-six nurses.

Coronolo from Bordeaux, January 28, with one officer and thirty-three men of Casual Company 11 (Pennsylvania), and three men of the Medical Corps.

Trivies from Bordeaux, January 22, with forty-five casual officers, including twenty-one of the infantry and ten of the Air Service and ten New Yorkers of Casual Company 18.

Norwich, N. Y.: First Lieut. John Frost, San Antonio; Second Lieut. Meredith L. Dowd, Paris; First Lieut. Glen Phelps, St. Louis; Second Lieut. Clinton Jones, San Francisco; Capt. Theodore G. Fort, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; First Lieut. Sheldon V. Clark, Williamsport, Pa.; First Lieut. Harlow P. Neibling, Minneapolis; First Lieut. Samuel Sewall, Bath, Me.; First Lieut. George C. Garret, Ind.; First Lieut. George R. Nixon, Los Angeles; First Lieut. William T. Funder, Bangor, Ohi.; First Lieut. John J. Quinn, Philadelphia; First Lieut. Russell L. Maughan, Logan, Utah; First Lieut. William J. Hoover, Hartsville, S. C.; and First Lieut. Hermon C. Rorison, Wilmington, N. C.

"KILLED IN ACTION" AFTER FIRING CEASED Unusual Blunder Made in Case of Private Briggs.

In reply to inquiries concerning Private Ralph S. Briggs, who has not communicated with his parents since August of the War Department, was January 31 that "Private Ralph S. Briggs was killed in action on November 15, 1918. November 13 was two days after the armistice was signed and the enemy had ceased firing."

Since August the parents have been inquiring for information about their son but thus far have not received even a reply from the War Department, they say. The information that Briggs was killed in action two days after hostilities ceased was elicited from the War Department by John B. Daniels, 23 East Twenty-sixth street, Manhattan, who happened to know some one "in the line" and got him to look up the matter personally. The War Department explains the long delay by saying that it had received the information January 24.

Briggs was 24 years old. He left Devon in Company K, 301st Infantry, Seventh Division, but was transferred several times. He was last heard from in August, when he was with Company F, Twenty-sixth Infantry, First Division.

Shot Down, but Not Hurt. Lieut. Harold C. French of Portland, Ore., aerial observer, and his pilot, William France of New York, were shot down in flames while flying over the Argentine Forest, but were unhurt when they landed. They warmly praised the gallantry of the Seventy-seventh and Forty-second divisions.

MINE SWEEPER LAUNCHED. Ace of Fleet Has Many Up to Date Contrivances.

The Cormorant, "ace of the mine sweepers" and one of the most up to date vessels of that character, shortly was launched at the Todd basin of the Todd Shipyards Corporation in Brooklyn yesterday.

80 Taken Off Stranded Ship. TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 5.—Eighty passengers of the steamer "Columbia" were taken off yesterday in Tampa Bay, were taken off today. The vessel pilots between Tampa, Key West and Havana.

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WESTERN TROOPS BACK WITH REGRET

Almost All on Duca d'Aosta Sorry They Didn't Get Into Battle.

AVIATORS FARE BETTER Several Who Return on Ship Had Narrow Escapes From Death.

Almost all the gallant Yankee warriors who arrived yesterday by the Italia-America steamship Duca d'Aosta from Marselles merely had the privilege of crossing the Atlantic and coming back again after training back of the Stars and Stripes. He said he had been and ardently hoping that they might get into the battle game.

The armistice came just one week before they were to go to the front and their homecoming was tinged with the melancholy of regret that the war ended so suddenly. They are of the 331st Field Artillery and the 337th Field Artillery, stalwarts chiefly from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri, under command of Col. W. Mott Lambdin.

Experience of Flier. Lieut. Frank Hughes of Athens, Ga., called by his comrades "Huckleberry Finn" passed a year flying in France. While he was in the hostilities on the Meuse, on October 25, on observation duty, he was attacked by several German planes. He fought until his gas mask was punctured and was then forced to descend, dropping in No Man's Land. German air patrols made a vain effort to intercept him, the American anti-aircraft forces that saw his plight driving off the patrol.

Hughes sought refuge in a shell hole and was forced to stay there three days while the Franco-American and German forces were engaged in a struggle to obliterate the landscape around him. He was nearly faint when rescued by the doughboys, who drove the Hun back to the trench. He was then sent to the University of Chicago football team before they went to war, were in the air service in France. Lieut. Hughes had been a Chicago's half back before becoming coach for the University of Utah, trained at San Diego with the late Major Mitchell.

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Macy's Herald Square, Broadway, 34th to 35th St. We Sell Dependable Merchandise at Prices Lower Than Any Other Store, but for Cash Only. Store Opens 9:00 A.M. and closes 5:30 P.M.



on Dress Parade Whether it's a promenade around the golden horseshoe at the opera, or an informal Hello! in the theatre foyer, there's an indescribable comfort in being appropriately togged out.

Tuxedo or Full Dress Coat and Trousers, \$34.50 Cut on mannerly lines, avoiding ultra effects, which tend to make clothes merely conspicuous.

Quality is evident in the unfinished worsted fabric. Silk lined throughout, fine tailoring admits this evening apparel to the class of clothing elsewhere considerably higher priced.

But a bit shows—and that little bit of vest must be in perfect accord with the conservative elegance of your suit.

Full Dress Vests Well tailored to adapt themselves to starched shirt fronts. White pique, mercerized materials and silk mixtures. \$2.32 to \$6.75

Tuxedo Vests feature black and white stripes. Black moire and brocade. V shape. \$3.49 to \$6.75

The Stamp of Fashion singles out the smart model.

Dress Shoes at \$7.89 Fine grade of patent leather button kid top.

A tilt to the tile—makes or mars it—we are featuring two models in Men's Silk Hats One with slightly tapering crown add medium flat brim is \$6.74

Another more conservative style has a slight roll to its brim and belled crown. \$10.74

Fidgety? Yes! It's really worries himself to death, if it binds here or wont bend there. so Mrs. Heather was more than delighted to discover our Pique Dress Shirts at \$2.24. Ecru of sheer cambric—cuffs either Pique or plain linen.

PLUTO WATER America's Physic - and more! YOU can get a laxative anywhere, but there is only one spot in America that will give you Natur's minerals, rich with the quality of radium, concentrated in spring water. That spot is French Lick, the historic home of PLUTO water.