

RIGHT HERE IN RICHMOND Every Metropolitan Advantage for Newcomers—See T.-D. Wants

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RIGHT HERE IN RICHMOND Attractive Homes for Sale or to Let. See T.-D. Want Pages

65th YEAR VOLUME 65 NUMBER 348 RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1915.—TWELVE PAGES. WEATHER PAGE 6 —FAIR PRICE, 2 CENTS

POST-OFFICE SITE IS FULLY ARGUED

Secretary of Treasury McAdoo Makes Personal Inspection of Property Suggested.

RESERVES HIS DECISION

Chamber of Commerce Stands Firm for Extension of Present Building.

Every business organization was represented yesterday at the hearing before William G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury, on the question of improvement of the Richmond postal facilities and the selection of a site for an additional building.

At the outset Secretary McAdoo announced that he wanted to hear no sentimental argument and none on real estate transactions. The only question to be considered by him was the availability of the property at the corner of Eleventh and Main Streets, for which an appropriation of \$150,000 has been made.

Mr. McAdoo listened to extensive argument, one side favoring the selection of the Blair property at Eleventh and Main, and the other seeking to have a separate building constructed on some other site. The hearing was completed at 2 o'clock. The rest of the afternoon was spent by the secretary and Assistant Secretary Byron Newton and experts of the Post-Office and Treasury Departments in viewing and examining the various sites suggested.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR EXTENSION OF PRESENT SITE

The business organizations represented at the hearing were the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants' Association, the Business Men's Club and the Richmond Clearing-House Association.

T. Reed, president of the Chamber of Commerce, urged the selection of the property at Eleventh and Main Streets, adjacent to the Federal Building, saying that he believed the postal facilities could be most improved by the acquisition of this property. He stated that he did not believe that the appropriation of \$150,000 made for the purchase of the Blair property could be used for the acquisition of any other location.

Dr. George Ross, speaking against the purchase of the Blair property, urged that it would be a physical impossibility to put the basement of the post-office building in sanitary condition. Dr. N. Thomas, head of the Richmond public school system, quoting from a report made by him and which was approved by Dr. George Ben Johnston, said that the linchroom in the basement of the Federal Building was absolutely unfit for use.

MILLER PRESENTS PETITION FOR UPTOWN SITE

L. O. Miller, chairman of the Citizens' Committee, said that he had a petition signed by 1,100 citizens, nearly 400 of whom are members of the Chamber of Commerce. He did not think that the present site could be arranged for a proper post-office, and that, even if the addition were made, it would be only a few years away from leaving the selection of a site to the officials of the Post-Office Department.

ONLY BLOCK GIVING POST-OFFICE FOUR FRONTS

The present site, Mr. Cabell said, is not without its disadvantages, but he pointed out that the block is the only one in this part of the city that would afford four fronts for a post-office. If an annex be constructed on the site adjoining the post-office building, Mr. Cabell said, all the incoming mail can be delivered on Bank Street. By gravity conveyances the mail can be sent down to the proper rooms on the first floor for local distribution and for the outgoing wagons.

"PUT UP" TO VON PAPAN

John C. Easley offered argument in favor of the Eleventh and Main Streets site, and Robert E. Magill, secretary-treasurer of the Presbyterian Committee of Publication, said that he was willing to leave the question to the decision of the Post-Office Department officials.

Ford Is Not Wanted on English Shores

Government's Indifference Such as to A mit Neither Recognition nor Interference.

LONDON, December 14.—The steamer Oscar II, which has on board Henry Ford and his peace advocates, has not been reported. It is learned in official circles, however, that it is hardly likely that the steamer, which is destined for Kristiania, will be taken into Kirkwall. It is believed that the Oscar II, has no cargo aboard, and following the policy outlined recently by Lord Robert Cecil, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons, that the government will hardly take any steps which will bring the passenger any nearer the English coast than France.

The government views the enterprise of Mr. Ford with an indifference which admits neither of recognition nor of interference, which official circles believe can be followed with the greatest advantage by keeping the Ford party from English shores.

HE HEARS BOTH SIDES

President Wilson Receives Delegations from Women Who Want to Vote and Those Who Don't.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—Both sides of the woman suffrage question were presented to-day to President Wilson. A delegation from the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage thanked him for his announced opposition to a Federal constitutional amendment enfranchising women, and delegates to the annual meeting of the National American Woman Suffrage Association asked him to present such a petition, and asked his assistance to have it indorsed in the next Democratic platform.

The President did not commit himself further. He said nothing to the women opposed to suffrage. To the suffragists he explained that he already had under consideration a request that he change his original position in opposition to the Federal amendment.

More than 1,000 women shook hands with the President during the day, the suffragists numbering 800 and their opponents 200. In contrast to previous similar demonstrations at the White House, neither delegation to-day carried banners or was headed by a band.

WORST IN MANY YEARS

Storm Paralyzes Traffic and Leaves Mass of Tangled Wires in Its Wake.

NEW YORK, December 14.—Railroads of New York and New England were struggling to-night to release themselves from the grip of the first severe storm of the season. Fallen wires made the task difficult, but small armies of men have been at work, and it was hoped that some regular schedules could be restored to-morrow.

Paralysis of traffic on the New York, New Haven and Hartford has been only partly relieved, but the New York Central reported it had accounted for all its trains.

NOT MEDDLING IN MEXICO

Berlin Says Its Hands Are Clean so Far as New Revolution Is Concerned.

BERLIN, December 14. (By wireless to Sarville).—The Overseas News Agency says: "Official circles here disclaim any connection with activities of so-called German agents who, according to American and English press reports, are said to have tried to foment a new revolution in Mexico.

"The German government, following the lead of the United States, more than a month ago authorized the German minister to Mexico to recognize Carranza as the head of the government."

Military Attache Was Asked to Pass on Price Paid for Destruction of Plants.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 14.—The name of Franz von Papan, recalled German military attache of the German minister at Washington, was brought into the government's investigation of alleged bomb plots here to-day. Federal officials said telegrams in the government's possession showed that the subject of the price to be paid for the destruction of an explosive plant at Pinole, Cal., was "put up" to Von Papan.

CHICAGO LANDS G. O. P. CONVENTION

Date Is One Week in Advance of St. Louis Meeting of Democrats.

PARTY TAKES OFFENSIVE

Leaders Plan to Carry Battle to Political Enemies Now in Power.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—Chicago was selected by the Republican National Committee to-night as the meeting place of the 1916 Republican National Convention, to be held June 7, one week before the Democratic convention in St. Louis.

The vote stood: Chicago, 31; San Francisco, 13; St. Louis, 7; Philadelphia, 2. Earlier in the day the date was decided upon. Advocates of an early convention argued that now was the time for the Republican party to take the offensive against its political enemies without regard to the ancient custom of allowing the party in power to meet first and announce its candidates and platform.

FIGHT FOR CONVENTION PROVES ONE-SIDED

The fight for the convention proved to be more one-sided than friends of the cities which lost believed it would be. But the fact that the Democrats meet in St. Louis on June 14, and that many thousands who will attend the Democratic convention had made reservations at several hotels undoubtedly has its influence against St. Louis.

Representative J. Hampton Moore made the principal argument for Philadelphia; Henry R. Rathombe and Mayor Thompson for Chicago; Representative Julius Kahn for San Francisco, and Ex-Mayor C. P. Walbridge for St. Louis. After the vote was taken the contest apparently was forgotten, and all sides went to work on campaign plans.

The committee officially took no cognizance of candidates, although the lobby of the hotel where the meetings were held was pretty well filled with Republicans who have the vote as presidential possibilities and their supporters. About 100 of the 100 delegates to the convention are to be chosen at primaries, and by the time most of these elections are held the leaders expect to have a good line of what the different States think of candidates.

CHAIRMAN RULES CHAIRMAN OF ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

One of the last things done by the committee to-day was the selection of a committee on arrangements which will select a temporary chairman of the convention and name some of its important temporary committees. Chairman Hilbes in head of the arrangements committee and the other members are: Ralph E. Williams, of Oregon; Franklin Murphy, of New Jersey; E. C. Duncan, of North Carolina; Fred W. Estabrook, of New Hampshire; Fred Stanley, of Kansas City; Charles B. Warren, of Michigan; Alvah H. Martin, of Virginia; James B. Goodrich, of Indiana; Thomas K. Neeldinghaus, of St. Louis; and John T. Adams, of Iowa.

ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO PREVENT USE OF PROXIES

The committee adopted a resolution designed to prevent use of proxies at future meetings of the committee, except when the given of the proxy is all out of the city where the meeting is to be held, or a member from some territory outside the continental limits of the United States.

The committee gave an hour in the afternoon to proposals and opponents of woman suffrage. Applause and laughter greeted all the speakers. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw asked that the Republican platform of 1916 carry a plank promising a Federal suffrage amendment and Miss Frances Jolliffe, of California, and Mrs. Sara Bard Field, of Oregon, of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, served notice that there were 4,000,000 women voters in the West whose votes were worth voting and could be had if the Republican party would put such a plank in its platform. Mrs. A. J. George was spokesman for the anti-suffragists.

JAPAN ISSUES DENIAL

Tokyo Disclaims Responsibility for Present Revolutionary Activities in China.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WASHINGTON, December 14.—A special report that Japan is responsible in any way for the revolutionary activities in China is contained in a statement issued by the Japanese embassy here to-night with the authority of the Foreign Office at Tokyo.

It is stated that the imputations may have arisen from Japan's participation in the advice to China by the entente powers to defer any change in the form of government at this time lest "one more disturbing element be added to the already complicated world situation." Specific denial is made that Japan has furnished either armament or assistance to the revolutionary elements, and that Japan is the base of activities by Sun Yat Sen.

HIGH-WATER MARK REACHED IN SHIPS

Super-Dreadnoughts of California Type Most Nearly Approach American Ideal.

DANIELS SUBMITS REPORT

His Reply to Congress Is Based on Information Gained From European War.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—Super-Dreadnoughts of the California class, displacing 32,000 tons, are declared to represent the high-water mark in the size of American battleships. In a statement presented to Congress by Secretary Daniels.

"It would be unwise," the statement says, "to build Dreadnoughts so large that they could not easily pass through the Panama Canal. It is also believed that, in view of the increased efficiency of the torpedo, the very extensive use of mines and the bombs from aircraft, it is decidedly better to increase the fighting units in numbers rather than in size, the high-water mark in size having been reached in vessels of the California class."

The statement was submitted to Congress in response to a requirement of the last naval appropriation bill that Congress be furnished with a report of "building four warships of the type, power and speed which, in his (the secretary's) judgment based on knowledge gained from the prevailing war in Europe, are best suited for war on the sea."

APPARENTLY BRINGS LONG DEBATE TO CLOSE

In his reply, Mr. Daniels apparently brings to a close the debate which has been agitating the Navy Department for many weeks as to the general characteristics of the first battleships to be recommended under the administration's five-year-building plan. Tentative plans for a 36,000-ton ship, armed with sixteen-inch or perhaps seventeen-inch guns, have been discussed. Many officers believe the press-circled sixteen-inch, 30-caliber weapons of the California and Arizona to be ample since the ships will carry a dozen of these against ten, at least, of the other weapons. There are officials, however, who believe the fourteen-inch rifle completed and tested last year with satisfactory results should go on the new ships, and still others argue for a seventeen-inch gun.

In answering the question propounded by Congress, the secretary declares the super-Dreadnought is the most efficient weapon, ship for ship, in any navy. He serves warning, however, that a fleet composed exclusively of Dreadnoughts must meet defeat at the hands of a better balanced organization properly equipped with battle cruisers, scouting craft and submarines.

The prime military characteristics, as determined, the statement says, are the offensive power of a ship, as expressed by guns, torpedoes, etc., and defensive power, expressed in terms of power or of cruising radius.

MUCH OF INFORMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

"Much of the department's information," continues the statement, "in regard to the details affecting the efficiency of belligerent ships is in the form of confidential reports, which it would be contrary to the public interests to make public in any way. There are, however, several conclusions which can be laid down.

"The first and most important lesson is that the British grand fleet, composed not only of Dreadnoughts and super-Dreadnoughts, but also of battle cruisers, light cruisers, destroyers, submarines and auxiliaries, has to date maintained command of the sea. It is further known that, despite the efforts of submarines and other minor craft, the losses of this fleet have not been serious.

"Another notable fact was brought out by the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty to Parliament in November, 1914, that by the end of 1915 there would have been added to the fleet thirteen capital ships, together with a corresponding and adequate number of vessels of other types. All of this indicates conclusively that the command of the sea, with the attendant security of a country exercising that command, rests with the power possessing ships which in the aggregate have a preponderance in the prime military characteristics enumerated above.

SO-CALLED 'DREADNOUGHT' NEARLY APPROACHES IDEAL

"Of present and practicable types of vessels, the so-called 'Dreadnought' most nearly approaches the ideal aimed at in the clause of the last naval appropriation act. It is necessary to qualify this answer, however, for it cannot be said, and it is not believed, that the prevailing war in Europe has demonstrated that a fleet composed of any other single type of vessels of practicable dimensions would or could be successful against a properly balanced fleet."

Congress asked also for a report on the naval value of aircraft, and, after a long discussion setting forth the need of battle cruisers in the navy, the secretary says of aeroplanes, dirigibles and balloons:

"My conclusions are that all these types of aircraft, each in its particular field, have demonstrated their undoubted value for observation and scouting purposes. It is regretted that in this, as in other subjects pertaining to the lessons of the prevailing European war, the greater part of the department's information is in the form of confidential reports."

ROUND TRIP CHRISTMAS TICKETS.

Via Norfolk and Western Railway. Will go on sale December 17 to 25, inclusive, good until January 10, 1916.

NOTE OF PROTEST IS SENT TO FRANCE

It Is Couched in Friendly Terms, but Tenor Is Very Emphatic.

WILSON FULLY APPROVES

Seizure of Germans and Austrians From American Ships Denounced.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—The United States government to-day cabled Ambassador Sharp at Paris for presentation to the French Foreign Office a note vigorously protesting against the removal by the French cruiser Deguerre of six Germans and Austrians from the American steamships Carolina, Cosmo and San Juan, "immediate release of the men is asked on the ground that the seizure of citizens of a nation from an American vessel on the high seas is without legal justification and constitutes a flagrant violation of American rights."

The note was dispatched by Secretary Lansing with the full approval of President Wilson. It also is understood to have been discussed by the President with his Cabinet at to-day's meeting.

COUCHED IN FRIENDLY TERMS, BUT EMPHATIC

Couched in friendly terms, the communication states the American point of view emphatically and cites precedents employed in the case of August Piepenbrink, a German, who was removed from the American ship Windborn by the French cruiser Conde in November of last year and released after representations by the United States.

Attention is directed to the fact that the men removed from the ships were not embodied in the "armed forces of the enemy," as that term is used in the Declaration of London. It is asserted, however, that there is no justification for the removal of subjects of a nation which is an enemy of France from an American vessel on the high seas bound to a neutral port, even if they could properly be regarded as military persons.

POINTS TO RULE SET BY FOREIGN MINISTER

To support this position it is understood that the note points to the Foreign Affairs in a note sent during the Civil War to the French minister to the United States in regard to the removal of the Confederate commerce destroyers, Mason and Sidiell, from the steamship Trent. This note, considered especially applicable to the present situation, said:

"She (the Trent) was carrying her cargo and her passengers to a neutral country, and, moreover, she had taken them on in a neutral port. It is not admissible that under such conditions the neutral flag did not completely cover the persons and merchandise which it was transporting, its immunity would no longer be anything but an empty word; at any time the commerce and navigation of third powers would have to suffer from their harmless, or even indirect, relations with one or the other of the belligerents; the latter would no longer be entitled merely to require entire impartiality of a neutral and to forbid him from interfering in any way in the hostilities, but they would place on his freedom of commerce and navigation restrictions, the lawfulness of which modern international law has refused to admit."

The text of the American note, which is said to be brief, probably will be made public when word of its delivery to the French Foreign Office is received.

DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS EXPECT FRANCE TO CONTEST

Officials of the State Department apparently think the French government may see fit to contest the contentions of the United States, and that the men will not be released until further communications have passed between the two governments. This opinion is based on the assumption that the communication of the despatches was acting in accordance with instructions.

The French ambassador here is believed to have been advised of the intentions of the United States during a conference held late yesterday with Secretary Lansing.

BARRED FROM HOUSE

On Objection of Page, Suffragists Are Refused Permission to Address Representatives.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—On objection of Representative Page, of North Carolina, permission to address the House was denied to-day to Miss Francis Jolliffe, of California, and Mrs. Sara Bard Field, of Oregon, who were to have addressed the House on the Pacific Coast with a huge suffrage petition for a constitutional amendment.

Representative Nolan, of California, had asked the House to permit them to speak for twenty minutes after adjournment.

MAY DISPLACE JUSTICES

Bill Would Give President Power to Appoint Substitutes for Those Who Refuse to Retire.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—The Senate Judiciary Committee to-day reported favorably the bill to empower the President to appoint substitutes for Federal, district or circuit judges seventy years or more of age who fail to retire after ten years' service.

The bill is being pressed as a form to displace incapacitated justices who refuse to retire.

British and French Continue Retreat

A NOTE of protest has been forwarded by the United States to France concerning the removal from the American steamers Carolina, Cosmo and San Juan to the French cruiser Deguerre of six Germans and Austrians.

British and French troops are still moving back toward Saloniki, while the Bulgarians and Austrians are continuing their progress against the Montenegrins and Serbians. Berlin is said to have asked Greece whether the new facilities that country has given the entente forces have compromised Greek neutrality in any way.

On the Russian fronts scarcely any fighting is in progress, while on the Austro-Italian line the Italians again have brought Gorizia under the fire of their artillery, and have made infantry attacks on several other sectors. The Austrians are persistently answering the Italian guns from Gorizia.

There has been considerable artillery activity on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and the Turks claim that near Seddul Bahr an allied attack was broken up and the force compelled to retreat to the trenches with great losses.

FURTHER LIGHT THROWN ON PREPAREDNESS PLAN

War Department Submits Its Estimates of Money Needed for Coastal Defense.

GREAT FORT AT CAPE HENRY

Eighteen Emplacements Are to Be Built in Virginia Waters, and Eventually Sixteen-Inch Guns Will Protect Entrance of Chesapeake.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—Further light was thrown on the scope of the administration's defense plans to-day when the War Department's estimates for coast defenses during the coming year were submitted to the military committees of Congress in the form of a preliminary draft of the fortifications appropriation bill, carrying a total of \$23,306,123 for all purposes, including the maintenance and increase of permanent works in the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands.

Estimates for the Panama Canal, which will fall under the canal government, will add another \$600,000 to this sum, and, in addition, the War Department asks authority to make continuing contracts during the year to a total of more than \$10,000,000 for mobile and coast artillery and ammunition for the year. The bill last year granted such authority to the extent of \$30,000, covering contracts for mobile artillery, field guns, siege guns, mountain guns and howitzers only.

CAPE HENRY IS ONLY SPECIFIED PROJECT

For engineering work to be done on new fortifications the department asks for \$5,269,250, the only specified project being that at Cape Henry, where it is indicated eighteen gun emplacements are to be built, and where huge sixteen-inch wire-wound guns eventually are to be installed with the necessary smaller weapons. In another section of the bill is an estimate of \$15,000 in gun wire alone, to be used in the first of these gigantic weapons built for sale by the government.

While no details of the specific plans have been made for all the contemplated sixteen-inch batteries, which it is understood will be added to the defenses of New York and other important harbors.

Estimates for \$618,000 are presented to complete the work of modernizing the present twelve-inch batteries by raising their elevation and increasing their range.

SEM COVERS EXPERIMENTS FOR COASTAL DEFENSE

For new guns, either field or sea-coast, and for ammunition to be purchased immediately, \$9,961,000 is asked. Under these provisions come the experiments now in progress to determine how big guns can be mounted on motor cars or railroads and moved along the coasts to points of danger. They also embrace experimental work with new types of field, siege and mountain artillery.

An indication of the preparedness plan is shown by the fact that \$1,352,000 is asked for subcaliber guns and ammunition to carry out training in marksmanship next year, in addition to the work with full charges.

The appropriations sought cover new plans for submarine mines and torpedo stations, as well as for the purchase of the Hammond radio-dynamic torpedo, for which \$947,000 is asked.

TO EXTEND EMERGENCY TAX

Committee, by Strict Party Vote, Reports Favorably Leader Kitchin's Resolution.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—The House Ways and Means Committee, by a strict party vote, to-night reported favorably Majority Leader Kitchin's resolution to extend the emergency tax law to December 31, 1916.

NEXT BIG BATTLE WILL BE FOUGHT ON GREEK SOIL

Hellenic King Fails to Save His Country From Horrors of War.

VICTORIOUS TEUTONS ARE PURSUING ALLIES

Already Bulgarian Forces Have Crossed Frontier, Following Franco-British Armies.

GREECE IN HARD POSITION

Speedy Action by Germany Fore-shadowed by Note to Athens.

LONDON, December 14.—The next battle, in all probability, will be fought in Greece, despite the efforts of the Hellenic King and government to save their country from the horrors of war. The British and French forces have made good their retirement down the Vardar valley, and are now approaching Saloniki, where re-inforcements are being landed, while reports received in Paris and Rome say that the Bulgarians have crossed the Greek frontier in pursuit. The reports of such action by the Bulgarians come somewhat as a surprise, as it had been believed that such a move by them would provoke the Greeks, and that consequently, if the entente allies are followed at all, the task would be allotted to the Austrians and Germans.

SITUATION COMPLICATED BY REQUEST OF GERMANY

Greece's position diplomatically has been complicated by Germany's request asking the Greek Cabinet if it does not look upon the encroachment of her territory by the entente allies as a breach of neutrality, and this inquiry is intended to foreshadow German participation in the pursuit. However, it is not believed here that the Germans have many troops in that part of the Balkans, their main forces having been diverted to Rusechuk when a retreat into Bulgaria seemed likely. Therefore, the entente allies for the present only have to fear the Bulgarians, as the Austrians are still occupied in Montenegro and Albania, where the Montenegrins and Serbians are keeping up a stubborn resistance. It has again been reported that the Italians have landed an army on the Albanian coast to go to the assistance of the Serbs and Montenegrins.

There has been more fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Turks here claim to have repulsed a German attack against their left wing at Seddul Bahr. Previous reports of casualties in the latter retired down the Tigris River are declared in private information now reaching London to have been exaggerated. For example, the three vessels which they captured turned out to have been a tugboat and two barges.

STILL HAMMERING AWAY AT AUSTRIAN POSITIONS

The Italians are still hammering away at the Austrian positions around Gorizia. The town of Gorizia itself has again been bombarded. Austrian officers who have been through many big battles on the eastern front describe the Italian artillery fire as more terrific and continuous than any they have previously experienced.

The appointment of General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien to the supreme command of the forces operating in East Africa means that the British are taking steps in an endeavor to clear the Germans out of the only colony that remains to them, except a small part of the Kameruns. The Germans are in strong force in East Africa, but General Smith-Dorrien, with the army that is being raised in South Africa, and with the troops that are already there and those going from home, hopes to complete his new job in short order. The commander, like the men under him, is experienced in African warfare.

SMITH-DORRIEN RELEGATED TO BRITISH EAST AFRICA

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) LONDON, December 14.—General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, hero of the Marne, and of the battle of the Tannenberg, who was credited by Sir John French with having saved the left wing of the allied army when the Germans were pushing it back upon Paris, has been appointed commander-in-chief of the British forces in East Africa. The announcement was made by Under-Secretary Tennant in the House of Commons to-day.

When General Smith-Dorrien was recalled from France last June it was rumored that he had been concerned in the reported breach between Sir John French and Lord Kitchener. In November it was reported that he was to receive a "high appointment"; in other words, a promotion.

Whether his friends will consider relegation to British East Africa a real promotion, even though he is to be in supreme command there, remains to be seen.

SHIP-PURCHASE BILL WITHDRAWN FROM CHAMBER

PARIS, December 14.—The bill authorizing the state to purchase a merchant fleet of fifty ships from a British firm has been withdrawn from the Chamber of Deputies, according to the newspaper Liberte. The measure has been strongly criticized as both useless for the purpose designated and too costly.