

# THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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WHOLE NUMBER 1205

COL. ALIPIO GAMA



Col. Alipio Gama is the head of the Brazilian war commission which has come to the United States to confer with us on the best method of employing the armed forces of Brazil in the war against the Teutons.

## CROZIER TELLS DELAY

Chief of Ordnance First Witness in Senate Army Probe.

Blames Red Tape, Snail-Pace of Congress and Unwillingness of Manufacturers Take Chance.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Wade of red tape, bickering by the war munitions board, snail-pace proceedings in congress, and unwillingness of manufacturers to "take a chance" on contracts without government funds actually available—all these conditions were revealed to the senate military affairs committee as the causes of low speed in equipping America's armies. They were brought out in testimony of Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, the first of the witnesses in the committee's sprawling investigation of the war department's equipment.

Major General Crozier, in a frank statement of the difficulties the war department has encountered in fitting the army for service. He reserved some details for the confidence of the committee, but in the main his testimony was unreserved.

The general made it clear that there is no shortage of ordnance in the American expeditionary forces in France. The French government is supplying the American forces there with artillery, he said.

"When will we get caught up on this side?" asked Senator Reed of Missouri.

"We'll be caught up on all important things by next summer," answered the general.

General Crozier told the committee that no money was made available to the war department for war expenditures until June 18 and that immediately after that it became necessary to revise estimates.

The appropriations to meet these revised estimates, he said, were not made available by congress until October, he said.

"We did everything possible in anticipation of the passage of these appropriations," said General Crozier, "but one obstacle which caused very serious and considerable delay, was this:

"Manufacturers did not want to spend money out of their own pockets in advance of the possibility of the passage of appropriation bills. They could not get the capital for such contracts. We were helpless and they were helpless."

The purchasing systems also caused delay, he said, as some time was lost while the war munitions board passed judgment on the prices charged for materials. In the hurry to get equipment, General Crozier said it had been necessary to resort to the "cost plus" system of contracting. He gave it as his opinion this system had saved money for the government.

## Steel Mills Now Fill Peace Orders.

Steel companies that have been holding off consumers with commercial orders for several months, while prices were being adjusted, are now making sales more readily to distributors, and are accepting manufacturers' contracts for deliveries in two to three months. Shipments in excess of new business since last April have placed the mills in a better position to fill so-called peace orders, without placing in jeopardy the prompt execution of war contracts.

The navy department is taking bids on 3,000 tons of steel for aircraft factory buildings in New York city and orders have been placed for 4,500 tons of steel for buildings at Langley aviation field. The large machine shop at Washington will probably be constructed of re-enforced concrete.

## BRITISH MINISTER HITS PEACE TALK

Churchill Declares Situation is More Serious Now Than Ever Before.

### ALLIED CAUSE IS ENDANGERED

Balfour Declares British Received Peace Offer From Kaiser Last September, but No Further Steps Were Taken.

Copenhagen, Dec. 13.—A Geneva dispatch to the Vossische Zeitung says that on receiving the cardinals December 23 the pope will deliver an important pronouncement to the question of peace.

London, Dec. 13.—Speaking in Bedford on the subject of the allies' war aims, Winston Spencer Churchill, minister of munitions, said the situation was more serious than it had been reasonable three months ago to expect.

The country and the allied cause, Colonel Churchill added, were endangered.

The future of the British empire and of democratic civilization was hanging in the balance and would continue to hang there for a considerable period.

"When I say the country is passing through a time of danger," Colonel Churchill continued, "I mean there are people who wish to bring about a premature peace. They are listening to the sophistries and dangerous counsel of certain politicians.

"People who say 'restate your war aims' really mean to make peace with the victorious Hun.

"The British do not mean to put up anything but the legitimate and righteous aims with which we entered the war, and if such an issue as this were seriously raised, it could be decided only by the whole nation. I cannot see that there is the slightest danger in submitting that question to the free decision of the whole nation."

Former Premier Asquith, speaking at Birmingham, declared that if he had to live over the time again he still would take the same position he had arrived at with regard to Great Britain entering the war.

He added that he unhesitatingly believed it had been worth while, provided the war ended in a peace which secured the original purposes for entering upon it and contained the elements of permanency.

Foreign Secretary Balfour told the house of commons that a communication had been received by Great Britain from Germany last September, through a neutral diplomatic channel, to the effect that Germany would be glad to get into communication with Great Britain in regard to peace.

The British government replied it was prepared to receive any communication the German government might decide to make and to discuss it with Great Britain's allies.

Germany returned no reply, Mr. Balfour added.

## WOULD BAR \$50 WAR BONDS

Elimination of Low Denomination Issue Discussed by Loan Body at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Elimination of the \$50 Liberty bond in future issues on the ground that the war savings system will accommodate small purchasers, was discussed by representatives of Liberty Loan committees from all parts of the country in session here. Most advocated its retention, however, and this recommendation probably will be made to Secretary McAdoo.

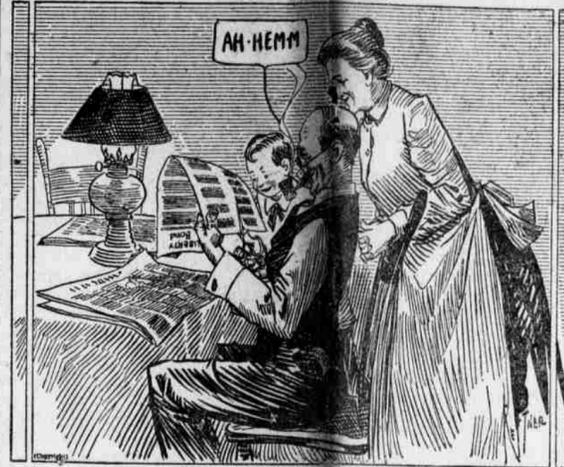
Most of the \$400,000,000 certificates of indebtedness issued September 28 in anticipation of Second Liberty loan receipts have been presented for redemption to federal reserve banks. The original date of maturity, December 15, was advanced to December 11 by Secretary McAdoo.

## BLOW AT GERMAN MONOPOLY

Chancellor A. Bonar Law in Commons Explains Bill to Control Non-ferrous Metals.

London, Dec. 13.—The nonferrous metal bill, which gives the government control of all dealings in metals not containing iron and is intended to destroy what hitherto had been a virtual German monopoly in these metals, was discussed in the house of commons. In the course of the debate Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, said he wished to let Germany know that Great Britain realized her power commercially and that when the time came she should use it. Germany should also remember, he said, that the longer the war lasted the less war material there would be to go round and the allies would help themselves first.

## A Bloated Bond Holder



## COSSACKS BATTLE BOLSHEVIKI ARMY

"Red" Forces Reported Defeated in Big Fight at Mohilev; Dispatches Delayed.

## KALEDINES HAS LARGE ARMY

Leader Can Count on the Support of 400,000 Cossacks—Allies Expected to Send an Army to Russia to Help.

Copenhagen, Dec. 13.—The semi-official German news agency says that demobilization of the Russian army already has begun and peace negotiations restricted to the Russian front have been authorized.

London, Dec. 13.—The British government has received a dispatch from the Russian government stating that the Russian army is being demobilized.

Dispatches—all greatly delayed—reported the first actual clash between the bolsheviks and 3,000 to 4,000 Cossack rebels around Tamanovka, about 18 miles from Bielgorod. The Cossacks were part of a force commanded by General Korniloff, well furnished with arms, machine guns and ammunition. The size of the bolshevik army was not specified. No details were received as to the result of the fighting.

Dispatches from Petrograd, dated Monday night, reported uneasiness at the capital lest there be riotous scenes Tuesday. The military revolutionary committee was exhorting all soldiers to join in a demonstration against the cadet and other moderate parties as well as against Korniloff and Kaledines.

## Bolsheviks Are Defeated?

London, Dec. 13.—Reports of fighting at Mohilev, Russia; general headquarters, between troops newly arrived there and the bolshevik garrison were received in Petrograd, according to the correspondent of the Times in the Russian capital. It is also reported that shock battalions and Cossacks advancing on Mohilev clashed with the bolsheviks, who were defeated.

Russian officials in London, who are establishing direct communication with General Kaledines and other leaders of democratic organizations in Russia, declared to the Associated Press that the movement to overthrow the bolsheviks was supported not only by the Cossacks, but by almost all the leaders of the other parties. These leaders, it was said, are confident they will be able to make short shrift of the bolsheviks.

## 400,000 May Join.

They also feel certain they will be able to present a formidable fighting force by spring.

It is said that thousands of Cossacks already have left the fighting front and rallied to Kaledines' support, and it is expected he will soon have the entire force of 400,000 Cossacks at his disposal.

The officials in London assert the plans embrace the solidification of the loyal fighting forces, the complete elimination of the bolshevik organizations in the cities and towns of southern Russia, the re-establishment of order, the reorganization of supplies and the establishment of a new allied fighting front to protect the rich Russian granaries and coal and mineral fields from the Germans.

They add that a form of guerilla warfare may possibly precede the re-establishment of a solid fighting front, owing to the present disorganized state of the army on account of the bolshevik peace negotiations.

## Allies May Support.

The question of allied support, which the officials declare is necessary if Kaledines and the other forces loyal to Russia and the allies are to be successful, is one on which much stress must be laid, especially the question of the eventual sending of an American expeditionary army to cooperate with the forces holding the new front. It is pointed out that this would not be in the nature of American interference in Russian internal affairs, but a case similar to American and British troops helping France.

Hard as it may be for Russia to carry on in the face of the tremendous sacrifices made at the beginning of the war and the paralysis of the army under the bolshevik and German propaganda, the officials assert that Russia will carry on till the time a general peace is agreed upon in common with the allies.

London, Dec. 13.—"A local attack by the enemy against our positions north of La Vacquerie (Cambrai front) was repulsed," says the official communication. "We carried out a successful raid at night in the vicinity of Pontreux, north of St. Quentin, in which we captured prisoners and a machine gun."

## BRITISH REPULSE AN ATTACK

Germans Are Driven Back North of La Vacquerie on the Cambrai Front.

London, Dec. 13.—"A local attack by the enemy against our positions north of La Vacquerie (Cambrai front) was repulsed," says the official communication. "We carried out a successful raid at night in the vicinity of Pontreux, north of St. Quentin, in which we captured prisoners and a machine gun."

## CHRISTMAS LEAVES LIMITED

Soldiers Must Live Within Trolley Distance to Go Home for the Holidays.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Men of the National army will not have Christmas furloughs unless they live within trolley distance of their cantonments, the war department has decided.

## U. S. PATROL BOAT SINKS

War Vessel in Collision With Unidentified Vessel Off Atlantic Coast—Crew Saved.

An Atlantic port, Dec. 13.—A United States patrol boat has been sunk off here in collision with two other vessels, the identity of which has not yet been established. Wireless dispatches received here stated that the crew of the patrol vessel was saved and a great deal of her equipment removed before she sank. Only the most meager details of the collision were contained in the radio message telling of the disaster.

## NEW CABINET IN PORTUGAL

Dr. Sidonio Paes, Leader of the Revolution, Is Made Premier and Foreign Minister.

Lisbon, Dec. 13.—Dr. Sidonio Paes, leader of the revolution, has been made premier and foreign minister. Machado Santos, who led the uprising of a year ago, has been appointed minister of the interior. The other portfolios have been distributed as follows: Public instruction, Alfredo Magalhães; justice, Moura Pinto; labor, Feliciano Costa; marine, Aresta Branco; commerce, Xavier Esteves; finance, Santos Viegas; colonies, Tamagnini Barboza.

## Employment Reduces Drunkenness.

Drunkenness has decreased greatly in New York because of the demand for labor caused by the war and "indirect" prohibition, according to conclusions reached by officials of the New York board of inebriety and hospital authorities. Arrests for intoxication dwindled from 1,522 in February to 939 in August, while the psychopathic ward in Bellevue hospital has had fewer alcoholic patients in the last six months than at any time in its history.

## Most Important Court Decision.

Notable among supreme court decisions, on account of the circumstances attending the enactment of the law construed by it, is the decision sustaining the constitutionality of the Adamson eight-hour law for trainmen in interstate commerce, and declaring at the same time the right of congress to compulsory arbitrate disputes between the railroads and their employees for the benefit of the public.

## ORDER SPEED ON SUPPLIES FOR PERSHING

Requisitions of General and Admiral Sims Must Be Acted Upon Day Received.

## CROZIER BEFORE COMMITTEE

Chief of Ordnance First to Be Questioned by Senate Military Body in Inquiry Into War Department Activities.

Washington, Dec. 13.—More indication of the unreserved character of the support put behind General Pershing and Vice Admiral Sims by the government came with the publication of the following order, issued by Rear Admiral McGowan, chief of the bureau of supplies and accounts of the navy, to his organization:

"Requisitions, requests and recommendations from Vice Admiral Sims, senior naval officer in command in Europe, are to be acted upon the same day they are received, and unless there be some insurmountable obstacle, in exact agreement with his wishes; that is to say: When I properly have any discretion in the premises, it is to be understood that that discretion has already been exercised when Admiral Sims' wishes become known.

"Advice of action taken will be immediately cabled to Admiral Sims in every case."

Somewhat similar steps have been taken in the war department with relation to recommendations from General Pershing. An officer of the general staff has been detailed to check up every day on the progress being made by any bureau with the filing of any order. In addition a special committee of the staff acts as a priority board to forward shipments.

Similar investigations, promised by other senate and house committees, are expected to accomplish in a measure the purpose of the proposed joint committee for "the conduct of the war."

This idea was abandoned last session because of President Wilson's opposition.

The senate military inquiry, to be directed especially at the arming and equipping of the nation's man power, was ordered by the committee Tuesday on reports the committee members understood to have heard regarding lack of clothing and equipment in army camps. Transportation of soldiers and reports that they have been crowded into trains and not properly rationed, and contracts for building cantonments and furnishing supplies are other subjects on which the investigation will touch. General Crozier's testimony was regarding ordnance manufacture and supply.

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the committee, emphasized the fact that the investigation is constructive and not critical and will be directed toward the correction of extravagance or errors committed.

## Officers Must Undergo Test.

Rigid investigation into the physical and military preparedness of all regular army and National Guard general officers is underway to determine their fitness for service in France.

The examination, ordered by Secretary Baker, is being made by medical and efficiency boards and was deemed necessary because of the "unusually severe conditions of service in this war."

Early retirement or discharge of some of the general officers is to be expected as medical boards already have reported against men in both the regular and National Guard units.

## THESE MEN HAVE RED BLOOD

U. S. Jackies Dive Into Icy Sea When Told Raft Is Too Heavily Loaded.

Washington, Dec. 13.—"The raft is too heavily loaded," said the officer in charge of one of the pontoons that got off when the American destroyer Jacob Jones was torpedoed and sunk, "If we all stay on we'll all go down."

There was a moment of silence among the men and then, without a word, two dove into the icy sea. Both found spurs to which they clung. They were cheered by the chilled sailors on the raft while they battled with the sea.

## LADY GRANMORE AND BROWNE



Not content with partial service in the time of her country's need, Lady Granmore and Browne, shown here in the garb of a nurse, is now devoting every moment to the men wounded on the battlefield. She is one of the youngest of the peeresses of Great Britain.

## HUGE U. S. WAR CROP

Year's Production on Farms Breaks All Records.

Figures issued at Washington show that the 1917 total is over \$21,000,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Many crops this year exceed the production of other years, while the value of the country's farm products with a total value far exceeds any other year in history. Final estimates of production of the principal farm crops were announced by the department of agriculture.

The production estimates are: Corn, 3,150,494,000 bushels; winter wheat, 418,070,000 bushels; spring wheat, 232,758,000 bushels; all wheat, 650,828,000 bushels; oats, 1,587,286,000 bushels; barley, 208,975,000 bushels; rye, 60,145,000 bushels; buckwheat, 17,400,000 bushels; flaxseed, 8,473,000 bushels; rice, 36,278,000 bushels; potatoes, 442,530,000 bushels; sweet potatoes, 87,141,000 bushels; hay, tame, 79,528,000 tons; hay, wild, 15,402,000 tons; tobacco, 1,196,451,000 pounds; sugar beets, 6,237,000 tons; beans, 15,701,000 bushels; kafirs, 75,868,000 bushels; onions, 13,544,000 bushels; cabbage, 502,700 tons; hops, 27,778,000 pounds; cranberries, 245,000 barrels; apples, 58,203,000 barrels; peaches, 45,066,000 bushels; pears, 13,201,000 bushels; oranges, 12,832,000 boxes.

Reduction of more than a million bales in the cotton crop of the country from the last estimate made was shown in the final estimate of production.

## PLANS POSTAL CENSORSHIP

Postmaster General Burleson Wishes House to Include \$500,000 in Post Office Bill.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Debate on the \$333,000,000 post office appropriation bill was resumed in the house with a new item for \$500,000 for postal censorship during the present fiscal year asked by Postmaster General Burleson. The bill already carries a European mail censorship appropriation of \$1,200,000 for next year.

In substituting the new estimate the postmaster general said that under the espionage and trading-with-the-enemy acts a new censorship of certain mails had been established in New York in October, necessitating additional expense.

## FIRST U. S. SHOT AT AUSTRIA

Representative Tinkham of Boston Fires First American Shell From Italian Front.

Italian Army Headquarters, Dec. 13.—The first American shot of the war against Austria was fired Wednesday when Representative Tinkham of Boston pulled the string of a 1.49 millimeter gun, hurling a shell across to the Austrian lines.

## PRUSSIAN VOTE BILL MOVES

Diet Passes First Reading of the Electoral Reform Measure, Says Dispatch.

Amsterdam, Dec. 13.—A dispatch from Berlin says the Prussian diet has passed the first reading of the electoral reform bill and referred it to a committee of 35.