

COAST DEFENSE SYSTEM IS WHOLLY OUT OF DATE

PUGET SOUND PRACTICALLY UNDEFENDED FROM ATTACK BY HOSTILE FLEET—CHESAPEAKE BAY MIGHT BE FORCED AND GREAT CITIES IMPERILED.

By Gibson Gardner.
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 10.—Congress has just been informed that the whole system of coast defenses of the United States is out of date, and that the safety of the nation requires the immediate expenditure of \$50,879,389 for new guns, torpedoes and forts.

The vast railway systems of the northwest are said to be threatened by the exposed condition of Puget Sound and Seattle. It is said to be of the highest importance, strategically and commercially, that a second line of gun defense be constructed at once on the sound, extending from Foulweather Bluff to Double Bluff, 17 miles from the outer entrance.

Chesapeake bay is also reported to be quite undefended. This means that a hostile fleet would find the way open to attack the important ship yards at Hampton Roads, and to facilitate raids on Washington, Baltimore and New York. Secretary Taft reports on the authority of the special board recently appointed to inquire into this matter. "With the entrance as it is now, unfortified, a hostile fleet should gain control of the sea, can establish, without coming under fire of a single gun, a base on its shores, pass in and out at pleasure, have access to large quantities of supplies of all kinds, and paralyze the great trunk railway lines crossing the head of the bay."

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likewise are reported to be without adequate protection.

When the present system of coast defense was planned in the '80s, it was considered unnecessary to spend any money at Puget sound. Now the National Coast Defense Board reports:

"These waters have become of the greatest strategic and com-

mercial importance, due to the completion in the extreme northwest of great railway systems, the rapid development of commercial, agricultural and manufacturing industries and the establishment of a navy yard containing the only dock on the Pacific coast with the capacity for a battleship."

"The entrance is four miles wide, and so deep that it cannot be successfully mined, therefore defense by the army must be confined solely to guns which should be increased in number to compensate for the lack of mine defense."

COMPANY REFUSES TO TREAT WITH THE UNION

All negotiations for a settlement of the differences existing between the Washington Water Power company and the electrical workers' union have been called off.

The Washington Water Power company, through its general manager, M. A. Huntington, positively refused to talk to the committee from the various labor organizations which waited upon him yesterday with a view to a settlement of the present trouble.

Mr. Huntington stated that he would treat with his former employees as individuals but that he nor the company which he represented would positively refuse to recognize the union or confer with any committee from any labor organization which represented the union.

While the action of the company in refusing to confer with union with a view to an amicable settlement of the strike is a disappointment to those who had expected a different line of action on its part, the strikers and their sympathizers believe that they will be able to convince the company that their action was taken in haste and that it is to their interest to not only recognize the union but to settle the strike as well.

The reason that the company has not brought the men working at Post Falls to this city to take the places of the men on strike is explained by the fact that the men are all members of the union, which is one of the best organized crafts in the country. The statement of the company to the effect that the men at Post Falls would come to Spokane can be seen to have been nothing but an idle statement made for effect.

The company is tied up today just as tight as at any time since the strike was inaugurated, and there is no prospect of a betterment of the situation as far as the company is concerned; in fact, each day adds to the discomfiture, as the amount of work that is piling up promises to seriously interfere with the proper working of their big plants.

When questioned today as to where the company could secure men to take the places of the strikers, business agent Allen of the union said that if he wanted to secure nonunion men himself he would not know where to look for them, so thoroughly has been the organizing of the men throughout the country.

APPEAR BEFORE A GRAND JURY

NEW YORK, May 10.—District Attorney Jerome has subpoenaed President Peabody of the Mutual Life Insurance company to appear before a special grand jury. It is understood Peabody will be a willing witness.

LARGE FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES.



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To the newly born, even when their eyes are opened in the midst of natural surroundings, the world seems queer, so who can imagine the first thoughts of an incubator chicken that gets its first impressions of the world while it is reposing among sawdust and old rags in a tin pan sort or arrangement in the neighborhood of a smoky lamp?

The large family of little golden yellow chirpers shown above were fated to start their careers in the unresponsive bosom of a machine of that kind. They were finally rescued by the young gentleman who is seen in the act of assuming the duties of official father to the outfit.

LABORS' REALM

FUNK GOES TO ST. LOUIS.

Councilman Leonard Funk will represent the International Brotherhood of Carpenters at the annual convention of the International Structural Building Trades which meets in St. Louis next week. Mr. Funk will depart for St. Louis next Sunday, to be gone probably two weeks.

WILL RESIST DEMANDS.

Three hundred western mineowners met in Chicago yesterday and decided to resist the demands of their employes for an increase in wages. It was the sense of the meeting that the western miners already enjoy all that the eastern miners asked for, and that this fact, together with the low price of coal, precluded the possibility of agree-

ing to the demands of the miners in the west.

The Commercial Telegraphers' union, in session at Cincinnati, inaugurated a movement for the formation of a Union Insurance company to be controlled by organized labor. The findings of the telegraphers have been forwarded to President Gomers of the American Federation of Labor and it may be the union men of the country will be asked to sever their connections with the old insurance companies.

The action of the structural iron workers in Chicago in refusing to arbitrate their differences with the contractors will, it is believed, involve all the building trades in the windy city in a great strike.

"MIKADO" POPULAR

Spokane theatergoers are more than pleased with the Russian Comic Opera company at the Spokane theater. A large house greeted them last night and seats are selling rapidly for tonight's performance. The company has certainly made good and the spirit of skepticism with which it was hailed is rapidly disappearing.

The crudettes incidental to a first night performance was absent last night and the production of "The Mikado" was a smooth and finished one.

Work on the summer garden is progressing rapidly and it will be ready in a few days.

KID TALK.



"Say, youse know dat pretty goil youse engaged ter?"
"You bet I do."
"Well, fegit it. She's mine now!"

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- 20c mustard.....14c
- 15c mustard.....11c
- 10c mustard.....8c
- 35c Snyder's sauce.....21c
- 20c Heinz's catsup.....14c
- 1 box Yakima honey.....20c
- Best comb honey.....15c
- 20c can mackerel.....10c
- 15c can oysters.....11c
- Domestic sardines..... 4c
- Soda..... 4c
- 20c coffee at.....15c
- 35c coffee at.....25c
- 3 lbs. best M. & J. coffee...\$1.00
- Golden Rod noodles at..... 8c
- 20c pkg. cocoanut at.....15c
- 10c pkg. cocoanut at..... 8c
- Lowney's cocoa at.....20c
- Walter Baker's cocoa at.....20c
- Fancy country butter, per lb..20c
- 50c Armour's Extract of Beef..38c
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