

# WOULD HURRY NAVAL WORK

## France Would Rush the Washington Plan of Naval Construction Is Report.

PARIS—(AP)—When France completes the reduction of the first section of her naval program elaborated in conformity with the Washington armament agreement, the fleet of the republic will consist of nine battleships, 14 cruisers, 50 torpedo boats and destroyers, and 64 submarines. This will be done by the spring of 1925.

Of the nine battleships, however, two are now obsolete and are even today carried in the parliamentary reports as effect weapons of offense. Six of the 14 cruisers will have passed the age limit, and 17 torpedo boats and destroyers are admitted by naval experts to be unequal to the task that would be allotted to them in present naval warfare.

Twenty of the submarines which saw service during the late war, according to a parliamentary report, would be useless.

Thus France could bring into line for effective naval operations seven battleships, eight cruisers, 44 torpedo battleships, eight destroyers, and 49 submarines.

Minister of Marine, Flaminius Rabier, expressing his conviction that such a reduced fleet would be unable to ensure the security of France's naval frontiers and the liberty of its naval lines of communications, recently introduced a bill in the chamber, asking for the work on the section to be suspended until the government has agreed upon at Washington to proceed immediately.

The bill provides for the construction of six cruisers of 10,000 tons; 15 destroyers of 2,400 tons; 25 torpedo boats of 1,450 tons; 4 submarine cruisers of 3,000 tons; 30 submarines of the first class, 1,300 tons each; two mine layers of 4,000 tons and four tankers of 10,000 tons each.

According to the government's program, work on these various units was to commence in January, 1925, and be completed in 1930.

Deputy Paul Denis, secretary of the Naval Commission of the Chamber, in submitting his report endorsing the program of the government, recommended that "owing to the precarious condition of the French Navy," the entire program be completed between 1924 and 1925.

This program as amended by the Naval Commission will come up for discussion during the present year, probably a few weeks after the new chamber meets next May.

It involves an expenditure of \$226,000,000 francs, which the present chamber is unwilling to saddle upon the country just previous to going to the polls.

**Track Owners.**  
When Special Police LONDON, (AP)—So difficult has become the task of regulating the racing course of Great Britain, that the course owners are conferring with a view to establishing a force of men whose sole duty shall be the protection of followers of racing and the general maintenance of order at the tracks.

Hitherto this has been done by local police and in some cases with assistance from the metropolitan police. But the results have been so indifferent that there is much complaint, and the track owners are determined to terminate the trouble.

**Paying Calls Thrives in Rome**  
ROME, (AP)—The custom of paying calls, in Rome on New Year's day, both social and official, is so prevalent that it is estimated that more than 2,000,000 calling cards are handed out by the varieties of this gift custom. Officials leave cards on all their superiors; ladies call on the diplomatic body and the leaders of society, and men are supposed to at least leave a card on all their women friends.

**Shoes Retailers Select Chicago.**  
CHICAGO (AP)—When the members of the National Shoe Retailers' association meet in convention in Chicago Feb. 11-14, they purpose to stress a program of education.

The argument is advanced that badly shod feet spoil the appearance of a man or woman whose get-up otherwise may be perfect, and that the public should be instructed in what kind of shoes are most appropriate for various and sundry occasions.

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### Flapper



Lucy Williams, member of a midget-theatrical troop, photographed on a Washington (D. C.) street. Lucy claims to be the smallest flapper and doesn't care who knows that she smokes. P. E. She's a Coolidge booster and belongs to the smallest Coolidge Club composed entirely of midgets.

## B. O. Y SCOUTS

**Celebrate Natal Week.**  
NEW YORK, (1924)—Boy Scouts of America will celebrate Anniversary Week from February 8 to 14, inclusive. The movement is in a very healthy condition, having a total membership of 592,756 which includes the scoutmasters and other officials. There are now over 3,000,000 Boy Scouts in the world.

An outstanding feature of the Anniversary Week will be the pilgrimage hikes to patriotic shrines and historic spots on Lincoln's birthday. While the scouts of Springfield, Ill., are hiking to Lincoln's tomb, the Boston boys will march to Bunker Hill or the tomb of Paul Revere. Some New York City Scouts will pay their annual visit to Roosevelt's grave, while others will hike to a dozen other historic shrines. The Scouts of Marion, Ohio, will, of course, make a visit to the tomb of their late benefactor, Warren G. Harding.

One of the unique features of Anniversary Week, 1924, will be the radio programs. Many broadcasting stations have made their facilities available to scouting. The American Telegraph and Telephone Company has invited members and officers of the executive

board to speak each evening from February 8 to 14 on some phase of scouting. This particular program will be repeated through the Washington and Providence stations and thru Western stations simultaneously.

**Some Out-Door Events.**  
The program of events for the fourteenth Anniversary Week has been arranged with a view of staging several events out of doors in the winter camps.

One of the principal features of the opening day of Anniversary Week, Friday, February 8, is the recommitment to the Scout Oath and Law, which is always an impressive service. This ceremony is generally followed with a review of the work of the Scouts demonstrations as may be held in the open or around a blazing campfire in the main bunkhouse.

The second day of the Anniversary Week, Saturday, February 9, will be devoted to scoutcraft demonstrations. The climax of the day's activities will be an all-troop campfire, with various Scout stunts, songs and games.

The third day, Sunday, February 10, will be a quiet day in the winter camps. There will be special Sunday evening ceremonies in the camps, closing with "Taps" sung by the scouts, accompanied by buglers, or by the buglers alone. In cities and towns all over the country there will be impressive church services, with emphasis on the Scout Oath and Law.

The fourth day, Monday, will be observed principally as "School Day" and will have little significance in the winter camps outside of the usual Scout demonstrations.

The fifth day, Tuesday, February 12, Lincoln's Birthday, will, as is customary, be a big day everywhere. This day will also be known in scouting as Patriotism or Citizenship Day.

The sixth day of the Anniversary Week, Wednesday, will be officially known as the Home and Friendship Day.

The seventh and final day of the Anniversary Week, Thursday, February 14, will be known as the Round-up Day and Start-off Day. Efforts will be made to bring new recruits into the scouting fold and to bring back into the fold those who have become discouraged. Everybody will prepare for the coming year, whether in winter camp or in their home-troop headquarters.

This is the one big day of the Anniversary Week. Probably the largest demonstration during the Anniversary of Boy Scout Week will be staged in St. Louis on Friday, February 8, as the final event of the Boy Scout Circuit or Round-up, when at least 1,000 exhibitors will be invited in the Boy Scouts by Chief Scout Executive James E. West, who will also broadcast a Scout message the same evening from a St. Louis station. At the Boy Scout Circuit, in the Coliseum, over 4,000 Boy Scouts will participate in the initiation of the 1,000 candidates, the largest number ever initiated at one time anywhere. Chief Scout West will also attend a big meeting of Scout officials at the Kiwanis Club, in Kansas City, on Thursday, February 7.

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**Poor Crops Bring Misery To Hebrides Islanders**  
LONDON, (AP)—Once again the inhabitants of the northern islands of the Hebrides, and especially the island of Lewis, are bordering on starvation.

The islanders depend mainly upon the food derived from the crops they raise themselves, but when the crops fail serious hardships are entailed.

This year the trouble came thru the destruction of the crops by the abnormally wet weather of the summer and autumn. No widespread and gentle but distress that appeals have been issued in Scotland and elsewhere for assistance.

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