

PRESIDENT OPPOSES MILITARY INQUIRY

Country's War Strength Problem Thought Untimely by Administration Leaders.

EXECUTIVE YET HOPEFUL

That United States May Play Important Part in Bringing European Conflict to Close Is Cause for Advice to Congress.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—While President Wilson is not expected to seek to mould the position of Congress on the resolution of Representative Gardner on an investigation of the military strength of the United States, officials close to the White House said tonight he would oppose the investigation if asked for an opinion.

He thinks it untimely and believes such an inquiry would not disclose any information not already known.

The President's position was made clear tonight by Administration officials to whom it became known that he had written Mr. Gardner a letter saying he was ready to discuss the question with him at any time.

Agitation through the Administration toward the Gardner measure as outlined tonight is that at such a time to agitate the question of the unpreparedness of the United States for war is inadvisable.

The President is hopeful that the Nation may play an important part in bringing the European war to a close.

Another reason given by Administration leaders for opposing the Gardner resolution is that in his speech opposing the movement Mr. Gardner attacked Germany and they think the adoption of his resolution would make it appear that the resolution was directed principally at that nation.

"Probe Good 'Mental Exercise.'" The President characterized the proposed investigation as "pleasant mental exercise" and said the only thing to be achieved by such an investigation would depend entirely on the character of the committee making it.

Administration leaders said tonight that the President realizes the importance of the military lessons taught by the present war and takes the position that everything possible should be learned by the United States, though he does not regard the present as a proper time for military discussions in Congress.

ARMY ESTIMATES ARE FIXED Less Ammunition, More Clothes and Medicine Asked.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—Appropriations aggregating \$104,124,513 to carry the Army through the coming year are proposed in estimates which the War Department has just completed for submission to Congress.

An increase of \$1,000,000 over the total carried by the Army bill for the current year, although reductions are made in the Army estimates for many branches of the service.

A new item of \$150,000 for purchase of automatic machine rifles is asked. Altogether \$2,000,000 is sought for ammunition, compared with \$2,600,000 carried in the current law.

For field artillery for the organized militia \$2,000,000 is asked, \$2,000,000 having been appropriated last year. For the manufacture, repair and issuance of arms at the National armories, \$250,000 is asked, as against \$400,000 last year.

The signal service would get \$700,000, of which \$400,000 would be for the purchase, maintenance, operation and repair of airplanes. Provision would be made for giving one year's additional pay to the beneficiaries of men killed in the Army aviation service.

Other items in the estimates on which Congress will be asked to base the Army bill include:

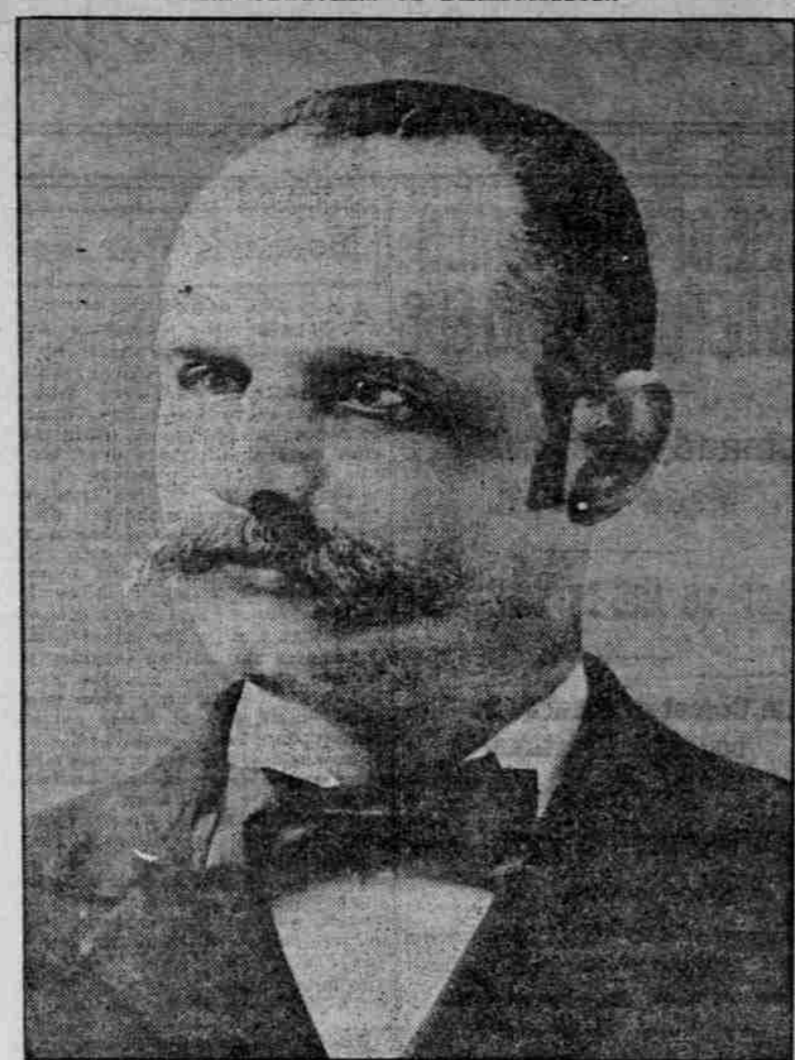
"Subsistence of the Army, \$10,250,912; regular supplies for the quartermaster department, \$8,000,000; new barracks and quarters in the United States proper, \$2,000,000; transportation of the Army, \$10,000,000; barracks in the Philippine Islands, \$400,000; clothing and camp equipment, \$1,000,000; increase of \$400,000; medical department, \$750,000, an increase of \$250,000.

BEN SELLING FOR SPEAKER (Continued From First Page.)

Members of the Senate who were present were Gus C. Moser, who presided temporarily; I. N. Day, Dr. T. I. Perkins, Robert S. Farrell, Arthur Langmuir and George M. McBride.

Huston Favors Delay. The caucus on the Speakership was the principal business transacted. It was intended to proceed with the permanent organization of the delegation, but this procedure was interrupted by Representative Lewis, who suggested that the Speakership situation be cleared.

MULTNOMAH DELEGATION'S CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER AND OFFICERS OF DELEGATION.



Top—Ben Selling, Representative-Elect, Indorsed for Speaker. Bottom—Left, E. V. Littlefield, Chairman; Right Plowden Stott, Secretary.

the Speakership. He declared that if the delegation delayed in expressing its choice for ten more days the honor might be lost to the county.

"While I am opposed to hasty action," he said, "it is necessary to make our decision within the next few days. I have no objection to entering a caucus at the present time."

Gill for Favorite. He displayed a telegram from Representative Horne promising his support to Mr. Selling. It was generally understood that Dr. Smith was pledged to Mr. Selling, and it was agreed that if a caucus was held these two votes should be counted for Mr. Selling and that the vote of Mr. Westworth should be counted for Mr. Huston.

In discussing the probable attitude of John Gill Mr. Selling said that he violated no confidence in reporting Mr. Gill favorable to Allen Eaton, but that "in case the 11 other members of the Multnomah delegation agree upon one man he has said he will find it embarrassing not to support that man."

D. C. Lewis insisted that the four Speakership candidates get together and discuss the situation among themselves. There was a manifest disposition by all four to do this.

County Is Championed. Mr. Olson expressed his willingness to enter the caucus and to support the caucus nominee.

"I believe in playing the game, and I'll play it fair," he said. "I think it is in my power to go to this county, and for that reason I'm ready to caucus with you."

On the other hand, I am sure that it is in my power to throw the Speakership outside Multnomah County, but I will not do that until I have had a chance to go to this county, and for that reason I'm ready to caucus with you."

On the first ballot Mr. Selling had five votes, Mr. Huston the first vote, Mr. Olson two votes and Mr. Littlefield one vote.

On the second ballot Mr. Selling had six votes, Mr. Huston the first vote, Mr. Olson two votes and Mr. Littlefield one vote.

Mr. Huston then moved to make the election unanimous. This action was cordially seconded by Mr. Olson and Mr. Littlefield.

All the three defeated candidates pledged themselves to vote for Mr. Selling and to work for his election. Mr. Gill, the absent member, when he heard of this action, likewise pledged his support to Mr. Selling.

After a brief interval Mr. Selling's selection was unanimously reported and the delegation proceeded with the rest of the business.

Dry Laws Discussed. A number of proposed bills were discussed. Among them was the proposed measure of the Committee of One Hundred making the recently enacted prohibition law effective.

S. B. Huston reported that the State Bar Association will propose improvements in the code and E. V. Littlefield announced that members of the Multnomah County bar are working on the draft of a law that will make it easier for attorneys to prepare bills of exception in cases at court.

BELGIAN POOR FLEE

Second Move Toward Holland Is Reported by Writer.

PEASANTS ARMING SELVES Food Rations and Military Reprisals Are Danger—American Commission's Supplies Exhausted; Plea Sent to Canada.

HALIFAX, N. S., Nov. 30.—A cable message from Rotterdam, received by the Morning Chronicle, depicts pitiable conditions among the homeless Belgians.

Despite the efforts of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium to feed the refugees, the Chronicle's correspondent says the supply of food for immediate needs has been exhausted and the non-combatants are asking aid from Canada. The dispatch in part follows:

"The American Commission have exhausted the immediate sources of food supplies. The cannot obtain food in Holland or in England for immediate needs. Another flight of Belgians toward Holland has begun; the panic-stricken people are streaming across the frontier into the border towns, which already were overrun with wandering refugees. The situation has become so acute that the American Commission has asked the British government to sell to the Canadian government flour, which is now in England and which is immediately available for distribution among the starving Belgians.

"The Belgian people, driven to desperation, are arming themselves with any weapons on which they can lay hands. The danger is that they will precipitate a riot and that it will bring upon them military reprisals."

BELGIAN MINISTER SATISFIED Summary of Relief Work by Americans Is Given Out.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—A summary of the work being done in the United States by the central committee of the Belgian relief fund was issued tonight by E. Havenith, the Belgian Minister. The statement said:

"The Belgian Minister expresses the greatest satisfaction at the results accomplished by the central committee of the Belgian relief fund. This committee has succeeded in interesting the American people in this generous work throughout the country. It has formed committees in 22 states, and these 22 state-wide committees. Thirteen Governors have been kind enough to work actively for the relief of the starving Belgians.

"This is now an exclusively American movement. Lindon W. Bates is the vice-chairman of the American branch of the relief committee established in London under the chairmanship of Herbert C. Hoover. Mr. Carter is also a member of the committee and is working with Mr. Bates, who has established offices in New York.

"The plan originated by the central committee of the Belgian relief fund is that each state should buy its own foodstuffs with the contributions collected in the state, so that such purchases may increase the business activity of the community. In case foodstuffs cannot be bought in that state, contributions should be sent to the central committee in Washington, D. C., which employs these funds to buy foodstuffs for prompt shipment to Belgium.

"Food bought by or donated to the various committees in America should be sent to Lindon W. Bates, American commissioner for relief in Belgium, 11 Broadway, New York City. The safety of transportation and distribution in Belgium by this channel has been arranged by international agreement."

American Women Also Provide Delicacies for Invalids. NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—Boxes of assorted foods, prepared especially for babies and invalids in accordance with a food list just made out by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, of Washington, D. C., are to be sent to Belgium by the woman's section of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, it was announced at the New York headquarters of the commission tonight. By means of these "baby boxes" it is thought the lives of 1,000,000 babies and children who are suffering from lack of proper food may be saved.

The Commission said that the food sent heretofore has been intended mainly for the adult population, and thus was not so adapted as was required for the sustenance of infants. By the new plan 30-pound packages will be prepared and marked with a white band so that on arrival in Europe they can be sent immediately to the children who need them. Sixty-pound boxes of ideal food for invalids or adults, with blue or red bands, respectively, also will be forwarded.

FLEETS MAY CLASH

Germans and Allies Believed in South Atlantic.

BRITISH COMMERCE STOPS Teuton Craft Prepare Apparently to Take Supplies to Warships Said to Be Hovering Off Mouth of River Plata.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Nov. 30.—Interruption of British shipping and the outfitting of German merchant ships with supplies were accepted here as confirmatory of the reports of the approach of the German fleet, which is believed to be off the mouth of the River Plata in the South Atlantic.

It also is rumored that a powerful British fleet is nearby. The German steamer Patagonia is being loaded here with provisions, the Sierra Cordoba with coal and the Mera with coal and water. It is believed the supplies are to be taken to the German warships.

Reports of British steamers from Montevideo and the Brazilian port of Santos have been suspended. Marine records show that the Sierra Cordoba was at Montevideo November 22. The Mera reached that port September 8, since which time there has been no report from her. The latest record of the Patagonia is her arrival October 22 at Tenerife, Canary Islands.

BUENOS AYRES, Argentina, Nov. 30.—Neither the French nor British legation here has any information to confirm reports that the German squadron that recently was operating in the South Pacific has entered the Atlantic, but private dispatches from Montevideo insist there is good reason to credit the reports.

Reports that the German squadron had succeeded in making its way to the Atlantic have been current for two days. Under date of November 28, Montevideo reported that the German squadron had been sighted 600 miles north of Punta Pilar, Brazil, bearing northeast.

ALLIED WARSHIPS OFF MEXICO American Freighter Sights Squadron of British and Japanese. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 30.—Three Japanese and one British warship and two Japanese colliers were sighted off Magdalena Bay, Lower California, last Monday by the American freighter Aztec, which is in port here from Iquique, Chile.

The British light cruiser Newcastle, a sister ship of the Glasgow, and the Japanese cruiser Izumo, both of which have long been patrolling the Pacific Coast, were recognized, but another Japanese cruiser and a Japanese battleship were unfamiliar to the Aztec's officers.

Probably these vessels were the battleship Hizen and the cruiser Asama. MARYSVILLE, Cal., Nov. 30.—(Special.)—A futile attempt was made by a lone masked robber shortly after midnight this morning to rob the gold dredge No. 11, of the Yuba Consolidated Gold Mining Company at Hammononton, Cal. after desperate encounter.

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FRANCE LODGES PROTEST Washington Shipping Regulations Are Declared Hardship. WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—Ambassador Jusserand of France lodged an informal protest today with the Treasury Department against the new regulations for invoices and declarations of exporters shipping goods to the United States.

The regulations were promulgated last Summer, but not put into effect until recently. They were designed to prevent customs undervaluations and require greater particularity in the specifications of goods to be exported. Ambassador Jusserand told treasury officials that the war had taken most of the men in the French service familiar with this sort of work into the field and that their duties now were being performed largely by women or boys without experience.

BULLION ROBBER FAILS

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Second Day of the Great Thermometer Sale

This merchandise event is the talk of the town. Yesterday, the first day of the sale, many of our finest suits and coats were sold at \$23.50. But many beauties were overlooked; coats of Hindu Lynx, broadcloth and velvet corduroy; novelty suits of broadcloth, poplin, and even velvet—selling to \$35.00. Those who bought Monday are satisfied that they selected the most choice in the lot, but when you see the assortment left, you will say that it would be impossible to offer more style and finer quality than these on sale today at \$20.00. Was ever such an offer known—our newest and finest suits, selling to \$35.00—\$20.00?

The idea of the sale by days for the rest of the week. Although 100 Suits and 60 Coats were selected, the first and the best choice is given the early comers, and naturally the finest are selected each day.

Wednesday—the third day, the price will be \$17.45. The garments will be marvelous for the price, but we do not expect any above \$30.00 to be left.

Thursday—the price will be \$15.00. If you are fortunate, you may find a \$30.00 suit or coat still left to be sold at half price, but we advise you to come today or tomorrow.

Friday—\$12.50 will be the sale price for suits and coats worth twice that amount—but you will not have the selection of the early comers.

Saturday—until 6 P. M., we will sell suits and coats at \$7.00 apiece.

Come today while our finest suits and coats await your choice at \$20 each.

Credit Your Privilege.

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We Give American Travel Scrip.

Which coiled and left Honolulu as soon as the German gunboat Geler returned there. The understanding in the Japanese colony on the islands at that time was that the Hizen and Asama were bound for the South American West Coast.

WARSHIPS SILENT WIRELESS British Craft in Atlantic Out In and Jam Commercial Service.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—At least 12 British warships are now patrolling the Atlantic between New York and the Panama Canal, keeping close check on all forms of shipping, according to wireless operators on the steamship Ancon, which arrived today from Cristobal. The wireless activity of these vessels, the operators said, is causing great inconvenience to the commercial work of American vessels, as the high-powered waves of the men-of-war are heard continually in utter disregard of commercial business.

"These warships," the Ancon operator said, "pay no attention to the rules governing wireless operations. With their high-power apparatus they cut into the middle of a message and absolutely disregard all requests to keep out. We have no means of identifying these ships, as they use code that appears to be made up of a combination of numbers. We counted 12 different warships that jammed our wireless on the way up."