

ONE FOREIGN NAVAL LEADS IN GUNNERY

Rear-Admiral Fiske Admits United States Is Excelled, but Omits Names.

CANAL ZONE VULNERABLE

Fleet Alone Could Give Protection. Some Experts Believe Highest State of Efficiency Never Could Be Attained.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Five years would be required to put the United States Navy in the highest state of efficiency to meet a hostile foreign fleet, according to a statement today by Rear-Admiral Fiske before the House naval committee.

The Admiral, who is chief of the bureau of operations, member of the general board and an ex-president of the Naval Institute, said the Navy now was deficient in aircraft, mines, submarines, torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines and men, and had no mine sweepers.

Members of the committee were particularly interested in Admiral Fiske's views as to the possibility that foreign aircraft could drop bombs upon American cities. Replying to questions, he expressed the opinion that an attacking fleet might begin sending its airplanes on bomb-dropping from a range of 500 or 600 miles off the coast.

One Navy Exceeds in Gunnery. One foreign navy, which was not named, the Admiral said, was more efficient than the American fleet in gunnery. This he declared, however, was so only because the American marksmen had not had adequate opportunity for practice. In speaking of the "highest state of efficiency" the officer explained that he had in mind the state of a certain unnamed navy, which he said, "men have imbued the spirit of a military nation."

"I doubt if in five years' time we could get the Navy up to a state of the highest efficiency," he said. "That is, to the efficiency that the navies of Europe now have. I have no doubt that some officers say that there would be it were possible to bring it up to all that highest efficiency."

Spies Thought to Have Aided. The German raid yesterday on the British coast was followed by several times and the Admiral suggested that if the British had had five or six fast submarines on the coast, they might have attacked the possibility of the bombardment had been reduced. He said that if the German cruisers passed through English waters, they might be "that by the wonderful system of spies Germany has it may have found out just where those mines were situated." He added, though, that possibly the German cruisers carried mine sweepers.

Asked about the Panama Canal, the officer said no enemy could attack it so long as the American Navy controlled the sea. With the fleet defeated, however, he thought there would be no security for this, "the most vulnerable part of our possessions."

Canal Not Protected. "Couldn't you mine there as well as anywhere else and protect that mouth of the Panama canal?" was asked. "Yes."

"Could you prevent a hostile fleet from coming into the canal with those defenses there now?" "I should say not."

The fortifications alone, he explained, would not be sufficient, "because the fleet could land men a few miles away."

Under further questioning the Admiral said the European war would bring changes that no one can prophesy and that among the possibilities was an agreement between some of the foreign nations "to let one another alone" on certain conditions, which might involve the integrity of the canal zone.

Control of Sea Means to End. "The seriousness of such an attack or defense," he suggested, "is what Jobson, 'is substantially its bearing on the ultimate control of the sea through the operation of the first line of defense."

"Yes," replied the Admiral, "but of course the ultimate control of the sea is not the ultimate principle—the ultimate control of the sea itself is only intermediary to the effect on the government of the country you are after. For instance, if we should have war with any nation and our fleet should go out to sea and the enemy should have control of the sea, and they would sink all of our ships, the United States would save money on the upkeep of the ships and the pay of the men. So far as the mere destruction of the ships goes, that is not the point. That is only leading up to some other enforcement of your policy."

"Could we keep a hostile fleet farther away than 500 or 600 miles from our coast, and could they cover that distance with aeroplanes to drop bombs, against New York, for instance?" Admiral Fiske was asked.

"That is an extreme view," he replied. "I would say 400 or 500 miles." "Is it possible for any country to have a navy big enough to keep the navy of any other country more than 600 miles off the coast?"

"That would be very difficult indeed," he replied.

Submarines Could Save Ports. "It has been my notion," said Representative Roberts, "that if we had in all our harbors and important points an adequate flotilla of submarines it would be impossible for an enemy either to blockade sufficiently or to come within bombing distance. The results on the English coast yesterday especially bear out that theory. The squadron of German cruisers could not have bombarded Hartlepool had there been an adequate flotilla of submarines stationed there when the German cruisers came in, could it?"

"Not if there had been an adequate number. If there had been an adequate number there they could have stood off the German cruisers."

"Assuming that instead of coast defense submarines, with limited speed," he was asked, "England had had all about Hartlepool five or six submarines making 20 knots on the surface, would that have reduced the possibility of any bombardment of the coast?"

"The German fleet knowing there were 20-knot submarines there to keep off the coast?" "I think so."

Enemy's Position Considered. Admiral Fiske went on to say that in any attempt at offense or defense the United States Navy would attempt to get control of the sea far away, if the enemy's position were there; nearby, if the fight were to be nearby.

"By getting control of the sea," he explained, "the Navy would want to use all the arms possible—battleships, cruisers, armored cruisers, scout cruisers, destroyers and submarines. We would have to mine our coast, especially with anchored mines, and would have to take these to the foreign

points. And airplanes—when we went to Mexico our fleet carried four aeroplanes. An airplane or aeroplane could have attacked Vera Cruz without our landing any soldiers."

Admiral Fiske declared it would take five years to bring the American Navy up to fighting efficiency against an efficient enemy. The greatest need of the Navy, he said, was co-ordination.

"You say it would take five years for the Navy to get in effective condition?" asked Representative Witherspoon.

"Yes, to do its best. I doubt if in five years we could get the Navy up to a state of efficiency that one of the navies is in now."

Three Years, at Least, Needed. "If every fleet under the present state should be supplied with trained, intelligent officers and men, how long would it take?"

"Put it down to three years, approximately, but effectively we must have a coherent plan of organization from top down and bottom up, in every fleet and division. Every navy except ours has an organization which is military—every person's responsibility marked, plans laid carefully, contingencies prepared for, each ship manned and officered by experienced men."

"How many ships are supplied in that respect?"

"The battleships and some of the destroyers."

The Admiral said there was one other nation, which he did not name, superior to the United States in gunnery.

AUTO UPTURNS; 4 HURT

W. H. HAMILTON, UNDERTAKER, AND TWO DAUGHTERS BRUISED.

Machine Skids and Makes Side Swerve—Crash on East Side.

Four persons were injured, two perhaps seriously, when an automobile driven by W. H. Hamilton, an undertaker living at 107 East Eightieth street North, turned completely over and skidded on the curb at the intersection of East Stark street at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The automobile was demolished. One of the occupants escaped unhurt.

The injured are: W. H. Hamilton, who was knocked unconscious and severely bruised about the head and body; Edward Knibber, of Milwaukee, bruise on chest and possible internal injuries; Mrs. Lewis Meeker, of Ridgefield, Wash., bruises about face and body; and Mrs. Dallas Smith, at 65 East Seventy-ninth street North, bruises about face and body.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Meeker are W. H. Hamilton's daughters. A son, A. E. Hamilton, of Klamath Falls, escaped injury.

The accident was the result of a skid into the curb while the driver was trying to avoid an auto delivery wagon. All the occupants were left in a heap on the street. A. E. Hamilton, who was under the wheel, jumped to his feet and helped the driver of the delivery wagon to place the injured in his machine. They were taken to the office of Dr. A. W. Goettko, at East Sixty-second and East Stark streets, and after first aid treatment left for their homes.

Hamilton says he was driving down East Stark street and the delivery wagon appeared suddenly from behind a bank on the left side of East Stark street in the middle of the street. Mr. Hamilton says the driver slowed down as if to stop and when he tried to swing to the left his car skidded.

Pledges Are Announced. The complete alphabetical list of those who have promised to vote for Mr. Selling as made public by him last night follows:

A. A. Anderson, of Clatsop; Benton Bowman, of Washington; Thomas Brown, of Marion; D. M. Cartmill, of Baker; C. C. Clark, of Gilliam; Sherman and Wheeler; S. B. Cobb, of Multnomah; Frank Davey, of Harney and Malheur; Vernon A. Forbes, of Crook, Grant, Klamath and Lake; John Gill of Multnomah; W. T. Grier, of Polk; T. B. Handley, of Tillamook and Yamhill; William G. Hare, of Washington; J. T. Hinkle, of Umatilla; Oscar W. Horne, of Multnomah; S. B. Huston, of Multnomah; James T. Jeffries, of Clatsop; W. A. Jones, of Union and Willamette; J. L. Kelly, of Hood River and Wasco; Louis Kuehn, of Multnomah; W. F. Lafferty, of Benton; D. C. Lewis, of Multnomah; E. V. Littlefield, of Multnomah; Francis L. Michelbook, of Yamhill; P. P. Olds, of Yamhill; Conrad F. Olson, of Multnomah; S. Paisley, of Washington; S. P. Pierce, of Coos and Curry; Roy W. Rittner, of Umatilla; Ben Selling, of Multnomah; Andrew C. Smith, of Multnomah; Wesley O. Smith, of Crook, Grant, Klamath and Lake; Robert N. Standfield, of Morrow and Umatilla; Plowden Stott, of Multnomah; William J. Water, of Douglas and Jackson; Fred D. Wagner, of Jackson, and Lloyd J. Wentworth, of Multnomah.

W. W. Cardwell, of Douglas, doubtless will vote for Mr. Selling.

Miss Towne Is Favored. There are 60 members in the House. Since Mr. Selling has 37 votes pledged, the possible maximum strength of Allen Eaton, of Eugene, who also is a candidate for the Speakership, is 23 votes. However, it is apparent that he cannot poll this full strength. Four of the 23 members not pledged to Mr. Selling are Democrats. It is probable that Mr. Eaton will receive one or two

PORTLAND CHICKENS WIN

Oregon chickens win, in particular, three from Portland, and the Red and other honors at the Inland Empire Poultry Association's seventh annual show, at Spokane.

Three birds in the Burred Rocks class went to M. J. Myers, of Portland. His winning birds were a cockerel, a hen and a pullet. Another pullet won second place in the same class and a cock won third place. His pen was given third award.

EFFECTS OF MODERN WARFARE SHOWN IN MOVING PICTURES

Modern warfare and its effects is presented for the first time in Portland in the motion pictures of the campaign in Belgium, which are the only ones that were taken on the Belgian battlefields.

Cities desolated, farms and highways ruined, refugees fleeing across the frontier; soldiers and civilians dead in the streets, all of the horrors of modern warfare in operation—these are offered in the reels which are now being produced at the Heilig Theater under the auspices of the Oregonian.

Half the proceeds from the show will be given to the Red Cross fund of Belgium. Out of the other half the Oregonian and Associated Charities for local relief work.

Tickets are on sale at the Heilig and the office of the Oregonian. The pictures will be shown this afternoon and the remainder of the week with the exception of tonight.

Edwin F. Wiegler, who took the pictures for the Chicago Tribune, is known as the foremost war photographer in the world and these pictures are pronounced by experts to be the best yet shown in America.

37 ARE PLEDGED TO BEN SELLING

Candidate for Speakership Announces Names of Those Who Promise Support.

OTHER VOTES EXPECTED

Canvass of List Reveals Fact That Allen Eaton, of Eugene, May Get 13 on Ballot, Five Are Doubtful and Four Democrats.

Thirty-six members of the lower House in the next Oregon Legislature have pledged themselves in writing or by caucus agreement to vote for Ben Selling for Speaker, according to an announcement made by Mr. Selling last night.

At least four other members are favorably disposed to Mr. Selling and doubtless will vote for him. He is expected to have at least 40 votes on the first ballot. The total specifically pledged is thus 37.

Mr. Selling has been gaining strength gradually ever since his election became apparent. It was evident that he would be chosen Speaker soon after the Multnomah delegation centered its strength upon him.

This action of the Multnomah representatives was taken November 30. This guaranteed him 12 votes. Members of the lower House in various parts of the state who previously had pledged their support pending action by the Multnomah delegation immediately offered their support to Mr. Selling. Within four days after the Multnomah caucus more than 31 votes—the number necessary for election—were pledged. He has been gaining additional strength gradually.

Although he is reasonably certain of at least 40 votes on the first ballot, Mr. Selling is not depending upon others than those who have given either their written or direct verbal agreement to vote for him. The number of such, he announces, is 37, including the 12 members from Multnomah delegation.

More than a week ago he was assured of 35 votes and felt satisfied of election. Although he was eager to gain additional support from the undecided members he made no solicitations.

Last night Francis L. Michelbook, of Multnomah, one of the representative-elect from Yamhill County, telephoned his intentions also to vote for Mr. Selling. P. P. Olds, the other Yamhill representative, and T. B. Handley, of the Yamhill-Tillamook joint district, previously had pledged their support. Mr. Michelbook's action assures Mr. Selling of the solid Yamhill delegation.

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votes from this source, but it is possible that the Democrats will vote for Miss Marian B. Towne, of Jackson County, the first woman ever elected to the Legislature in Oregon, and the only woman in the General Assembly. She was elected as a Democrat.

Mr. Eaton is expected to have four votes from the Marion County delegation. This quartet consists of Dana H. Allen, Samuel H. Brown, D. C. Thoms and George W. Weeks. It is probable also that two of the Linn County group, composed of Charles Childs and D. H. Pierce, will vote for him. Lane County's three votes, including Walter E. Dillard, Melvin Feawick and Mr. Eaton himself, also will go to Mr. Eaton.

Oran H. Porter, of Douglas County, is classed as an Eaton man, as are Charles R. Barrow, of Coos County, and E. E. Blanchard, of Josephine.

Clackamas Delegation Uncertain. Christ Schabel, of Clackamas, is considered an Eaton supporter, but Guy T. Hunt, of Clackamas, is classed as doubtful. C. W. Risley, the third member of the Clackamas delegation, is a Democrat. James S. Stewart, of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler, publicly announces that he is not pledged.

C. M. Hurlburt, who was elected joint representative from Multnomah and Clackamas counties over the protests of the Republican organization, is not counted for either Mr. Selling or Mr. Eaton. His seat will be contested by Roscoe E. Hurst, his Democratic opponent, and it is probable, too, that Hurlburt will not be able to claim it.

The only other man known to be favorable to Mr. Eaton is J. E. Anderson, of the Hood River-Wasco joint district.

Oran H. Collins, of Columbia, and S. G. Irwin, of Lincoln and Polk, are placed in the doubtful class.

The four Democrats—Miss Towne, Mr. Risley, W. P. Elmore, of Linn, and James D. Woodell, of Union—are not classed with either candidate, although it is possible that Mr. Elmore will vote for Mr. Eaton.

Summarized, the situation seems to be as follows: Pledged to Mr. Selling, 37; pledged to Mr. Eaton, 13; doubtful, 5; Democrats, 4; not voting (Hurlburt), 1; total, 60.

BRIDGE HEARING UP TODAY

County Commissioners to Consider Railroad's Toll Plan.

The petition of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company to the County Commissioners to fix tolls to be charged all vehicles but street cars crossing the Harriman bridge will receive its first informal hearing this morning. Leaving of the bridge by the county instead of by the city will be considered.

The present conditions under which traffic is operated over the Harriman bridge, the possible maximum strength of Allen Eaton, of Eugene, who also is a candidate for the Speakership, is 23 votes. However, it is apparent that he cannot poll this full strength. Four of the 23 members not pledged to Mr. Selling are Democrats. It is probable that Mr. Eaton will receive one or two

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Goethals' request, left Guantanamo, Cuba, today for Colon. Secretary Daniels announced that orders would meet the cruiser to aid the canal zone authorities in any way needed to observe neutrality and that if necessary other ships would be sent to the canal for this duty.

CANAL FLURRY OVER

Goethals Knows of Only One Violation of Neutrality.

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COLLIERS END SERVICE

Vessels Formerly Supplying Warships, Now Desiring to Return Home, Probably Will Be Permitted to Clear.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Two British steamships which have been supplying British cruisers in the Caribbean Sea with coal and provisions have represented to Colonel Goethals at Panama that they have ended their service as naval auxiliaries and desire to be considered as merchantmen. As such they would be permitted to load fuel and supplies in the canal zone for a voyage to a British port.

Secretary Garrison today called on Colonel Goethals for evidence whether the masters of the vessels are acting in good faith. It was said at the Department that on receipt of this evidence clearance as merchantmen in all probability would be granted the ships, as neither had been charged with violation of neutrality.

Canal Equal to All. Even though the ships had passed through the canal with supplies for belligerent cruisers, their cargoes were not taken on at an American port, and under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, vessels of commerce and of war of all nations, in times of peace and of war, are granted passage on an equal basis.

Officials here today viewed the flurry occasioned by Colonel Goethals' request for naval vessels to protect the neutrality of the canal as a closed incident. Colonel Goethals, in a supplemental report, said that except for the improper sending of a wireless message by a British collier he knew of no British violations.

Cruiser Tacoma Sails. The British Ambassador called at the State Department to give assurances that there had been no intentional violations of neutrality by British vessels and that the British government was desirous of observing scrupulously the rules prescribed by the United States.

The cruiser Tacoma, ordered to the canal zone in response to Colonel

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BEN SELLING LEADING CLOTHIER Morrison at Fourth.

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BRIDGE HEARING UP TODAY

County Commissioners to Consider Railroad's Toll Plan.

FLASHLIGHTS AS GIFTS

Practice Economy and Sensibility Attend This "Xmas" Sale of Flashlights

We were fortunate in making a special purchase of Flashlights sent in recently by mistake. The manufacturer, rather than stand cost of reshipment, sold them to us at practically our own figure.

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Specially good light for "Dad." No. 1—Bulldog, regular \$1.50. Now.....75c

Adapted for night watchmen, police, etc. No. 111—3 cell Club, reg. \$1.75. Now \$1.40

Suitable for the youngsters. No. 3—2-cell Miner's, reg. \$2.00. Now \$1.50

No. 4—3-cell Miner's, reg. \$2.40. Now \$1.75

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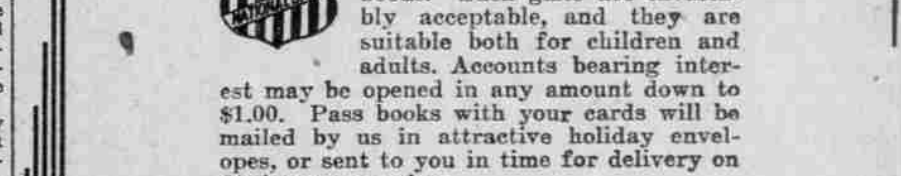
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PURE CALIFORNIA WINES IMPERIAL, elsewhere \$1.50; our price.....gallon 85c OLD VINTAGE, a \$2 wine.....gallon \$1.15 CREAM OF CALIFORNIA, oldest, best.....gallon \$1.45 DE LUXE, 65c a quart.....gallon \$1.85

Above Wines made from the finest Angelica, Muscatel, Chardonnay, Zinfandel, Burgundy, Riesling and Sauternes.

HIGH-GRADE WHISKIES SUNNY BROOK, bottled in bond.....bottle 79c OLD KENTUCKY.....bottle 75c 5 different WELL-KNOWN whiskies.....bottle 65c MARBLE.....bottle 80c SUNNY TRAIL, "rich and mellow".....bottle 90c PRINCE ALBERT, "smooth as velvet".....bottle \$1.15