

WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST, SAYS DANIELS

Secretary Reviews Work of Navy Department During Progress of War.

424 SHIPS NOW BUILDING

Head of Department Is Proud of Way Navy Has Met Actual Test of Conflict—Mistakes Have Been Made Is Admitted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—A recital by Secretary Daniels of how the Navy prepared for war by adding several hundred ships to the fleet and letting contracts for hundreds of others, including dreadnoughts, battle cruisers, destroyers, and submarines, is the main feature of the opening today of the inquiry by a House sub-committee into the Navy's war activities.

The sub-committee adjourned tonight without fixing any time for resuming the hearings and probably will not meet again until after Christmas.

Representative Britten, who has asked Secretary Daniels whether the department had received any complaints from Vice Admiral Sims, commanding American naval forces in the war zone. The Secretary said the question was improper and that "mess gossips" had been talking about it.

Requests Promptly Acted On. Later, when Admiral McGowan was called to the stand, he submitted an order issued by him some months ago directing that Admiral Sims' requests for supplies be acted upon the same day they were received.

"We have 424 ships in course of construction," Secretary Daniels told the committee. "That does not include submarine chasers, of which we are building 350, and does not include the small craft. The chasers will be in service by early Spring."

Included in the 424 ships, he said, were battle cruisers, battleships, scout cruisers, destroyers, fuel ships, gunboats, hospital ships, minesweepers, sea-going tugs, mine sweepers and submarines.

Secretary Daniels said the Navy now had more than 1000 ships in commission as against 300 two years ago, and an enlisted personnel of 250,000 officers and men, compared with 64,850 men and 4376 officers when America declared war.

Over-Obligations Incurred. The Navy, at the beginning of its participation in the war, the witness continued, had at its disposal the money needed for most of the expansion immediately required, and in pressing cases where funds were lacking, over-obligations were incurred.

Within the last few days the Navy has had to ask for \$50,000,000 in addition to the regular estimates amounting to \$1,039,000,000 for the next fiscal year, now before the House naval committee.

"Has the Navy measured up?" he asked. "It is my firm belief that at the close of the investigation your answer will be that the country has every reason to repose confidence in the Navy."

The Paymaster-General was asked why the \$1,000,000 appropriated at a previous session of Congress for acquiring the basic patents for aircraft remains unexpended, but the answer was left to be made by Captain Irwin, of the aircraft board, who will be called later.

Transportation Is Considered. Admiral McGowan explained the mode of expediting transportation by a system to inform trainmen that a carload was for the United States Navy, discontinued three weeks ago by the railroad car service commission.

"Will you get an expeditious shipment made?" he asked. "We do not believe so. The railroads claim we will. They claim others abused the plan."

Daniels First Witness. Secretary Daniels was the first witness summoned today before the House naval sub-committee designated to investigate the Navy's war activities.

Secretary Daniels gave a general review of what the committee has been avoiding, as he explained, disclosing any facts that would be of value to the enemy.

He told how the Navy is now building 424 capital and other important ships. Discussing the use of submarine chasers, he said, they were regarded as a necessity and there was "no great enthusiasm" about them as a weapon for permanent effectiveness.

Naval aviation, he said, has made gratifying strides, but has been hampered by lack of manufacturing facilities. Secretary Daniels praised the co-operation between the personnel of the Navy and the personnel of the allies.

Gun Crews Badly Needed. One of the great problems, he said, was to furnish gun crews to merchant ships. "We made these reserve ships," said Mr. Daniels, "a school for gunners, and the efficiency with which these officers have taken hold of the young men and made the young men efficient is really one of the big things of the Navy in this war."

"When you come to write the story of the war," he said, "one of the most thrilling chapters will be regarding these young men, who went on the merchant ships and risked their lives. We have still further improvement and for still more efficient work in the future. We feel we have done well, but we still have problems, some of them very difficult, which we have been trying to solve in the best way possible in the very brief time allotted to solve them."

Mistakes Are Admitted. "To the best solution of these problems we hope to have suggestions and help from this committee and from Congress. We do not claim we have done everything in the best possible way, or that we have made no mistakes. I believe, however, when you know all we have attempted, we will receive your confirming judgment that we have done as well as possible under all circumstances in some things credited to speed has been made. In other things there has been team work in the department and in the entire service to have things well done and thoroughly done."

Secretary Daniels told how, in the exercises at the outset of the war, keels had been laid where there were swamps and a few months before, and how mechanical equipment had been developed. Most contractors, he said, have been fair and patriotic. "There have been a few," he said, "we had to take by the nape of the neck. They came in saying they wanted to do their bit, but really wanted their bite."

Concessions Were Necessary. He did not like the cost plus 10 per cent system, he said, but it was the best the Navy could get at that time, and it had been necessary. "If between Secretary Daniels and Representative Britten, an agreement had been made to the Navy Department by Vice-Admiral Sims, that it is not getting everything that is needed, I think that is very petty and small business."

WAR DEPARTMENT PROVED FOR ALL

Clothing for Soldiers Is Either at Camps or on the Way There, Says Baker.

FULL STATEMENT IS GIVEN

Delay in Establishment of Observation Camps at Cantonments Explained by Secretary—More Favorable Reports Received.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Woolen uniforms for all troops have been provided and are either at the camps and cantonments or en route there, Secretary Baker said today, explaining steps the War Department has taken to meet the unsatisfactory health conditions at the training posts pictured in reports of the Surgeon-General made public yesterday.

The Secretary announced that all except one of the recommendations of the medical department had been complied with immediately, and pointed out that the reports upon which action was taken were received for the most part two weeks or more ago.

General Crozier's one proposal that remains to be acted upon, Mr. Baker said, is that regarding the establishment of observation camps. It may be gathered all new drafts of recruits for a period of two weeks before they pass into their company organizations at the training camps. The Surgeon-General believes that during this two week latent disease would have time to develop and it would be possible to prevent the communication of epidemic diseases to the troops in training.

Mr. Baker said action was delayed pending decision as to the wisest course to pursue in establishing the observation camps. It may be necessary to establish one camp in connection with every divisional training center, or, on the other hand, to build several large observation camps at suitable points throughout the country where recruits would be held during the two week period.

Secretary Baker received today personal reports on conditions at three of the Northern training centers—Camp Upton, New York, and Camp Meade, Maryland—to the effect that health and clothing equipment conditions were satisfactory. He also received an invitation to inspect the National Army division at Camp Meade tomorrow, with the promise that several orders and woolen uniforms and heavy overcoat.

Detailed Statement Given. Tonight Secretary Baker issued a detailed statement showing the clothing on hand at the four camps November 30, and that ordered shipped or already en route. He called attention to the fact that with the exception of Camp Sevier the reports of Surgeon-General Gorgas as to clothing shortages were based on inspections made since that date.

At Camp Doniphan, Okla., with 25,665 men, there were on hand 40,000 pairs of woolen trousers with 50 additional ordered from St. Louis, December 12. Woolen coats in camp totaled 18,371, with 9000 ordered shipped from St. Louis and Philadelphia in the previous eight days, overcoat 2,000, with 2300 others en route and 5000 ordered shipped from New York, December 18. Woolen underwear on hand numbered 155,000 pieces, with 31,000 additional under orders to be shipped. Blankets totaled 56,000, with 35,900 others ordered and 11,000 comforters in camp with 16,000 en route.

Much Clothing Ordered. The 40,000 men at Camp Funston had 25,000 pairs of woolen trousers, with 34,000 additional ordered from New York. Woolen coats totaled 27,900, with 10,000 ordered from New York, December 10. Woolen underclothing totaled 224,000 pieces, with 20,000 additional ordered. Overcoat in camp numbered 26,000, with 18,000 ordered; blankets in the camp 122,000, with 35,000 comforters.

At Camp Bowie, with 25,281 men, there was on hand a sufficient number of blankets and comforters to supply each man with at least three such pieces of bedclothing. Woolen coats on hand totaled 25,900, with 4000 ordered from Philadelphia, December 11. Woolen coats numbered 16,204, while there were 14,000 pieces of woolen underclothing in camp.

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WAR WAS NOT FORESEEN

(Continued From First Page.) conference with the manufacturers and decided that production should proceed. His firm, Otterson said, began deliveries in August, a month after signing of contracts, with new orders were received from Major Woodbury to push production regardless of the new standardization requirements. His firm, Otterson stated, is two months ahead of deliveries.

Manufacturing of rifles, Otterson said, was delayed by the Department's insistence upon greater interchangeability of parts. "It was not insisted upon finally," he ended, "but all the uncertainty, the discussions and the change of standards resulted in delay probably of two months."

Official Direction Needed. Otterson appeared disinclined to criticize either Colonel Thompson or General Crozier for arbitrary interference with the manufacturers' voluntary organization, but said early lack of official direction and organization had delayed rifle production.

Negotiations for manufacture by his firm of light Browning machine guns were begun last August, with new orders said, but none have been delivered. Within a month, he said, deliveries will begin and reach full capacity within four months.

Senator Hitchcock asked why the War Department delayed ordering Browning guns. The witness said if orders had been received in May deliveries might have been begun in September, indicating a delay of three months.

Charles H. Schlacks, general manager of the Remington plant at Eddyston, Pa., said his factory was far ahead on rifle deliveries. Manufacture began, he said, based only upon an informal understanding with General Crozier in June and preparations had been started in April, as a result of manufacturers' conferences and \$500,000 spent before a formal order was received. His deliveries began in September.

Plant's Production Pushed. No War Department order, Mr. Schlacks said, had tended to retard his plant's production. Colonel Thompson's demands for greater standardization, he stated, caused no appreciable delay, nor did the decision to modify the British Enfield rifle. Inability at

SEALS' MISSION KNOWN

MOTHER SENDS \$1 TO HELP COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS.

Patriotic Women Continue to Do Noble Sales Work in City in Spite of Inclement Weather.

"My boy is at the front and here is my dollar for Red Cross Christmas seals so that if tuberculous should find him before a bullet does it will help you, as he is sent back to Oregon again, to give him care and comfort and perhaps save him for me." Thus writes a mother in Clatsop County to the Oregon Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis which is conducting the campaign against tuberculosis by the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals.

Another letter says: "I cannot send you a dollar, though I'd like to send you a thousand, for I'm going to France myself, leaving my family and sacrificing my job to do my bit."

That an intelligent understanding of the mission of the association is being given to be established is evidenced by letters as well as by the generous response.

The incomplete returns available give \$153.81 as the result of yesterday's sale, which was in charge of auxiliary to Company E, Third Oregon Infantry. Today the sale is in charge of the Visiting Nurse Association, with Mrs. Thomas Houghton chairman, and the Progressive Woman's League, with Mrs. Alice McNaught chairman.

Ten dollar subscriptions were received yesterday from Dr. George F. Wilson and Walter C. Cook. Five dollar subscribers include Russell Hawkins, Ashley-Rumelin, Mrs. Lee Hoffman, Albert Milling Company, Troy Laundry, Dr. Andrew C. Smith, Hy E. Pennell, Fitchman, Barker Shoe Company, and M. C. Bantfield, Portland; B. Cunningham, Astoria; J. T. Thompson, Sheridan; J. M. Crawford, Dundee; Mrs. Samuel L. Moore, Astoria; D. C. White and Mat Moore, Astoria; and Mrs. M. J. McMinville; N. S. Corrigall, Echo.

DEATH CALLS MRS. MEYER

End Comes After Illness Lasting More Than Year. Mrs. Emanuel Meyer, sister of Mrs. I. N. Fleischer, died yesterday morning at her home in this city, the Wilmar Apartments, after an illness of more than a year's duration. Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon in the Holman chapel.

For many years Mrs. Meyer had been a resident of Portland. Her husband, Emanuel Meyer, who passed away a year and a half ago, was prominent in civic life in earlier days. Mrs. Meyer was 64 years of age.

Mrs. Meyer is survived by her son, Melville, employed at the Fleischer, Meyer & Co. wholesale house, and by three daughters and two brothers. Her sisters are Mrs. I. N. Fleischer and Mrs. Harriet Meyer, of this city, and Mrs. Bessie Phillips, of San Francisco. The brothers are Phillip and Samuel Goss, of San Francisco.

OIL COMPANIES APATHETIC

Bids Submitted to City Show Little Concession in Prices. Owing to the fact that oil companies offer the city no particular inducement to enter into a year's contract for gasolene, the Council yesterday decided to buy in the open market next year.

The companies submitted identical bids with prices practically the same as those charged in the wholesale market. Heretofore the city has enjoyed a rate about 2 cents a gallon below the market price, with a loss of \$100,000. Rewards have been offered for the alleged incendiaries, and armed guards are now protecting adjoining plants.

Lincoln Officials Under Fire.

NEWPORT, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Petitions are being circulated in outlying parts of Lincoln County demanding recall of County Judge Miller and Commissioners Hurt and Wakefield. The recall is in charge of Attorney Selma J. Galt, formerly of Chehalis, Wash., who has been employed by Yachats ranchers. Prominent citizens of this place and Toledo are opposing the proposed recall on the ground that it is only a short time until the primary election.

Fire Credited to Huns.

WHITESBURG, Ky., Dec. 19.—Fire, believed to have been the work of German agents, destroyed part of the town of Wayland, north of here, today, causing a loss of \$100,000. Rewards have been offered for the alleged incendiaries, and armed guards are now protecting adjoining plants.

Mediation Fails in Mill Strike.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Governor Withycombe today received telegraphic advices from Judge Campbell, of Oregon City, chairman of the

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A Merry Christmas will be the actual result if your wish is expressed by a gift of Diamonds, Jewelry, Watches, Silverware, Umbrellas, Leather Goods. There is no larger or more varied stock from which to make your selection than you will find right in our store. Open Evenings Until Christmas. Mail orders will receive our prompt personal attention. A. & C. Feldenheimer Jewelers, Silversmiths, Opticians. Established Since 1868 Washington Street at Park. Join the Red Cross.

POSTMASTER UNDER FIRE. Hemstead Official Alleged to Have Appropriated \$45 in Fees. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 19.—The postmaster at Hemstead, Long Island, through whose office mail for Camp Mills has been handled, according to charges filed by Representative Sinnott with the Postmaster-General, appropriated to his own use fees that should have been paid over to a sergeant of the Oregon regiment who handled the special delivery letters sent to Oregon boys at Camp Mills. This fee amounts to 8 cents per letter, and the money improperly retained by the postmaster aggregated nearly \$45. Mr. Sinnott demanded an investigation and the transfer to the Oregon mail sergeant all fees legally earned while handling special-delivery letters. The Postmaster-General has taken the matter up with the postmaster at Hemstead and promised Mr. Sinnott a proper adjustment would be made.

HOLIDAY SLIPPERS For Men and Women. Every Price Has Been Hooverized. FINE KID STITCHDOWN \$2.50. BLACK FELT \$1.25. BLACK EVERETT 50¢ to \$1.00. Ladies' Fine Cosy Slippers \$1.85. Colored Rome \$1 to \$1.15. Colored Spats \$1.25. FREE—A pair of tiny Rubber Boots with each purchase \$2.50 up. FANCY EVENING SLIPPERS IN EVERY NEW DESIGN \$2.50 to \$3.95. BOSTON Sample Shoe Store 129 4th St. bet. H. & I. Washington & Alder. OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS. Phone Main 4300 for Appointment.

Every Pair of Eyes. Is deserving of the greatest care and skill in their examination and the best quality glasses. My entire time, effort and equipment is aimed at the goal of QUALITY GLASSES at prices within reach of all. A successful experience of nearly twenty years, together with the best equipped Testing Rooms and Laboratory in this city, is offered you. Save your eyes. Dr. Wheat EYESIGHT SPECIALIST 207 Morgan Building Washington at Broadway Formerly associated with Dr. Thompson.

S. Ban & Co. IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS. It Pays to Visit the Xmas Store. The direct importer's clearance sale at remarkably reduced prices. S. BAN & CO. 34 N. Third St. Washington St., Near 15th Main Store Branch Store. The public is cordially invited to be present at this opening, from 8:30 P. M. to 2 A. M. today, December 20. Music and dancing.

CHEST GOLDS may mean weak lungs and need more thorough treatment than mere syrups, physics or stimulants.

SCOTT'S EMULSION corrects chest colds by giving strength to the blood and warmth to the body, while it is famous with physicians for relieving hard coughs and soothing the lungs, throat and bronchial tubes.

"One Touch of Nature Makes the Whole World Kin." It's a commendable trait that when something has been of benefit to us we want to share it with others who stand in need of the same help.

BELLANS Absolutely Removes Indigestion. Druggists refund money if it fails. 25c.

Sanitary Boon to Mothers. Softens and relieves chafed, irritated skin of infants. Keeps skin fresh and sweet. Fine for baby's tender skin. 50c. All druggists—adv.