

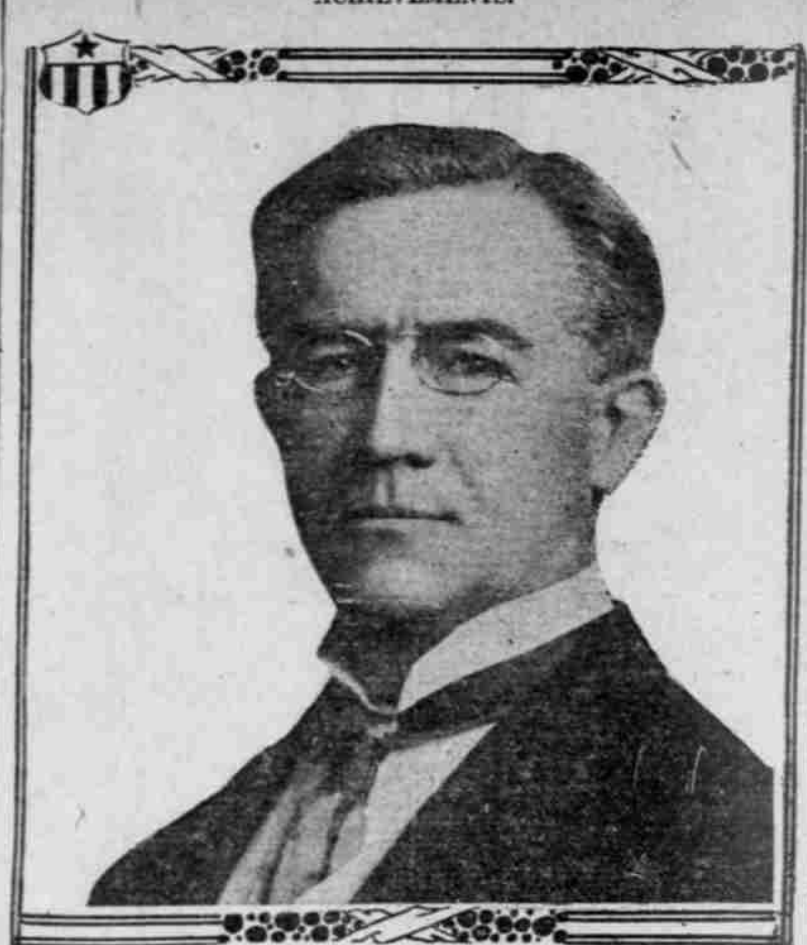
ERRORS COLOSSAL, SAYS HITCHCOCK

Senate Informed America's System of War Preparation Is Obsolete.

NEBRASKAN LEADS FIGHT

Administration Bitterly Assailed in Debate Over Proposed Legislation Providing Centralized Direction of Army Affairs.

LATEST CHALLENGER OF WAR DEPARTMENT'S CLAIM OF ACHIEVEMENTS.



SENATOR G. M. HITCHCOCK.

tion as an illustration of the absence of Government co-ordination. Administration leaders prepared to reply to Senator Hitchcock, whose speech launched the debate which has been impending since Secretary Baker made his statement that the President made known his opposition to the military committee's plans for reorganizing the Government's war machinery.

Sharp Criticisms Offered. Sharp criticism of many Government war activities was made by the Senator in illustrating his arguments, but without attacking individuals.

"Blunders that almost surpass belief" have occurred in the War Department, he said, and the shipbuilding situation he described as a "farce and almost a crime." He declared the transportation system has "broken down" and is a "gigantic wreck" with two million tons of freight piled up at New York without shipping facilities.

"I am afraid to go too deeply into shipping figures," he added, "for one might be misled by the figures. I am informed as to the present supply of our shipping were thunderstruck at the statements of Secretary Baker. His sanguine predictions as to our ability to ship men to Europe and supply them when there are exaggerations of the wildest sort."

Huge Tonnage Required. "To supply 1,000,000 men in France, supposing we could get them over there, it will require 3,000,000 tons of shipping in constant use. We all know the total tonnage now available is nothing like that amount. We all fear it will not approximate that a year from now."

"Let the Secretary of War be so out of touch with the shipping board and shipping authorities that he makes a statement that is so absolutely preposterous. I have no doubt of his sincerity, but this act indicates again the isolation in which the War Department is out of touch with another department."

Turning to Secretary Baker's war plan Senator Hitchcock said: "Secretary Baker has said we have plans. I am sorry to disagree with him. If there is one thing more conspicuous by its absence than any other in the operation of the various departments and bureaus in Washington, it has been planning for the future."

"I do not deny that the various departments have planned as far as they could in advance, but who has prepared the master plan which will harmonize all the other plans? Nobody, nobody could."

Statement Declared Absurd. Referring to the President's opposition to the two committee bills, the Senator said it was on the ground that the President alone has responsibility for conduct of the war, adding:

"The mere statement presents an absurdity. Asserting that Congress has a large measure of responsibility, Senator Hitchcock said it would be 'monstrous' to hold the President responsible for the 2,000,000 tons of freight piled up in New York, for the 'break-down' of transportation, for the 'muddle and jumble' of private shipments, the shortcomings of the ordnance department and Quartermaster's department, sufferings of the unseasonably sick soldiers and nine months delay in construction of the Government powder factory."

The Senator summarized the enormous burdens on the President, including his formulating a foreign policy, designing all the legislation for Congress to enact, dictating the political and political activities of the country and looking after expenditures of \$250,000,000 a week.

Wilson's Attitude Held Natural. "The President does not want the committee report the Cabinet bill, and," he continued, "if press reports be true, he objects even to a discussion of this legislation in the Senate. His attitude on the part of the President is unfortunate but not altogether unnatural."

"In the first place the President belongs to the school of political philosophers who adhere to the belief that all important legislation should originate with and be proposed by the Executive."

"I cannot subscribe to this scheme of government, although it has some obvious advantages in that it provides leadership, order and program."

"Since he became President Mr. Wilson has enforced his view upon Congress to a large degree and generally with good results. In the main, I have been one of those who have followed his leadership and supported his policies and I expect to do so in the future. Now and then, however, an exception must be made."

"This is one of those cases. The

DRINK HOT TEA FOR A BAD COLD

Get a small package of Hamburg Brewster Tea, or as the German folks call it, 'Hamburger Brust Tea,' at any pharmacy. Take a tablespoonful of the tea, put a cup of boiling water upon it, pour through a sieve and drink a teaspoonful at a time. It is the most effective way to break a cold and cure grip, as it opens the pores, relieving congestion. 'Ise' loosens the bowels, thus breaking a cold at once. It is inexpensive and entirely vegetable, therefore harmless.—Adv.

question at issue is not partisan. Neither is any principle involved. The matter at issue is purely a practical question whether we can support the efficiency of war administration by adopting business methods in buying supplies and whether we can get order out of confusion and action instead of delay, by co-ordinating great Government bureaus now running almost independently and often at cross purposes.

President Likened to King. "I agree with Senator Chamberlain that the President does not know the real situation. He cannot give two months to an investigation such as we have done. Like a king, surrounded by a court, he hears practically only one side."

"The people who complain do not reach the President nor even members of his Cabinet. They come to Senators and Representatives. The President and Secretary of War have evidently realized the defect of the existing system and attempted to correct it without legislation, but without success."

Frauding Edward Stettinius, the War Department's new surveyor of purchases, rifle and equipment shortages and without legal authority, like all the other voluntary agencies, and that a legally-constituted munitions director was needed."

Senator Hitchcock said Great Britain and France both had been forced to remedy Government weakness by a system similar to the war cabinet and suggested that the President under the bill would appoint and direct the war cabinet, and, if he pleased, could appoint Secretary McAdoo, Baker and Daniels as its members.

Methods Declared Obsolete. The War Department's obsolete methods, the Senator said, had brought the expected results, "confusion of authority, red tape, circumlocution and incapacity," and he cited evidence given in the military committee's inquiry of clothing, rifle and equipment shortages and sickness and deaths in camps as the result of overcrowding and lack of clothing.

"We found we must depend on overworked and overstrained France for machine guns for ground use until nearly the end of this year," he said, adding that the first American-made heavy artillery will not be received until July and "not much before 1918 can we expect to use in France American heavy artillery in any great quantity."

"We found," he continued, "that only now we are just beginning work on two great powder plants to cost \$60,000,000, and cannot get powder from these plants before August. We found that though the medical department asked for hospital ships last July, they have not yet been ordered."

"I do not deny that we also found much that was commendable and satisfactory. The task undertaken was a huge one and much of the work has been ably done. Some War Department officials most secretly criticized have worked desperately hard. This comment covers the Secretary himself. It is a lead me to believe a defective organization responsible for the shortcomings to a greater degree than any individual or group of individuals."

Two Courses Pointed Out. Two courses were open to the committee as a result of the investigation, said Senator Hitchcock—to report conditions, "making a few scapegoats and ignoring the greatest evil of defective machinery," or recommending legislation to give the President "an up-to-date war-making organization."

Senators on both sides gave Senator Hitchcock close attention. Senator Kirby, Democrat, asked if the military committee formally had made any statement. Senator Hitchcock replied the Nebraska Senator's individual views.

Senator Hitchcock said the decision to report the two bills was by members who had attended all of the committee's meetings. Senator Kirby did not attend the investigation until early in January.

Senator Williams, of Mississippi, an Administration spokesman, asked Senator Hitchcock for his authority for a statement that 2,000,000 pairs of shoes have been ordered. Senator Hitchcock said it came from civilian officials in high position.

"Then it's mere hearsay, after all," Senator Williams replied. The Nebraska Senator added he understood 7,000,000 more pairs had been ordered and he hoped the allies "would take some of them off our hands."

Informants' Names Refused. When Senator Hitchcock said he was advised that a large quantity of meat on a ship was spoiled by a blunder in turning off the refrigerating plant, Democratic Leader Martin asked the authority for the statement.

"I cannot say," he replied, "it was widely published and never denied. Senator Weeks, Republican, of the military committee, said the Quartermaster-General admitted it."

Senator Williams demanded that Senator Hitchcock disclose the names of his informant in all cases and Senator Hitchcock declined.

Senator Williams then replied that in accordance with legal practice he would "enter a general denial."

"And I shall leave it to the jury," rejoined Senator Hitchcock. In support of Senator Hitchcock's statement on shoes ordered, Senator McKellar, another Democratic member of the military committee, cited testimony of the Quartermaster-General, that from March to December 31, 1917, orders were given for 21,117,000 pairs.

"I am not going to delay the Senate with all the proof," said Mr. Hitchcock. "I am merely stating the facts." When Senator Hitchcock declared

Secretary Baker had "wildly exaggerated" in predictions of ability to send troops abroad, Senator Penrose asked: "I am curious to know what influenced the Secretary to make such a statement so apart from the facts. Was it his sanguine and hopeful nature or lack of information to justify them?"

Replying that he believed Secretary Baker merely lacked information, Senator Hitchcock said: "I consider it reckless—a terrible mistake to go misled the country. Of course, the Secretary did not do it intentionally, but only because he did not have the information because there was no co-ordination of the Shipping Board with other Government agencies."

Hoping to get 1,000,000 men to Europe without sufficient ships to transport them was characterized by Senator Hitchcock as "living in a fool's paradise." Unless something is done the United States will face the world's greatest disaster, he said.

"I can't believe the secretary intended it as a gigantic bluff or intended to deceive the people," said Mr. Hitchcock. "I didn't know; he was out of touch."

Aiding Enemy Charged. In fiery fashion Senator Williams instantly replied to Senator Hitchcock. He declared the Nebraska Senator had made "a very strong indictment" against the executive departments of the Government.

Referring to Senator Hitchcock's statement that he did not tell all he knew because he might be charged with giving information to the enemy, the Mississippi Senator declared:

"He did tell almost all he knew and he did give information very valuable to the enemy." Senator Williams referred to agitation before the war of legislation to prohibit shipment of munitions to the allies.

"That was almost as foolish," he said, "as this war cabinet proposal. That legislation to keep the allies from having American munitions was the German game then. The German game now is muckraking this Administration."

"If what the Senator from Nebraska says is true, we are out of the war. If his indictment is true, we are already defeated."

Historic Cases Cited. The Continental Congress, he added, came very near ruling General Washington, "and all the asses that ever existed came very near ruling Lincoln and Grant in the Civil War."

"Congress or a council cannot carry on the war as a council can carry on the brains for anybody to do it," said he. "If the President hasn't got brains enough to perform the functions of his great office, he can't be lent brains by a council."

"No other people ever turned from a peace establishment and within nine months converted themselves so nearly completely into a fighting machine as we," Senator Williams shouted. "The Senator says the President and Secretary of War don't know the facts, can't find out. In God's name, how is it possible for him to know? He is not superior in native ability of brains."

Here are 100,000,000 people ready to fight Germany by themselves and can whip her by themselves," shouted Senator Williams. "We feel our motto, we will have the spirit and we have the boys. What's the use of muckraking the Administration?"

The Mississippi Senator said the charges reminded him of the man who went to see a statue and proclaimed the head divine, the breast superb, the legs those of an athlete, but found a small defect on the right heel, and "wrote 216 pages about the defect."

"What's the use of it? What's the sense of it?" he declared. "Aren't we all doing our level best to win this war? Isn't every Republican trying to help win the war except a few scoundrels, who have nearly ended their political lives?"

Senator Williams declared the bill an usurpation of executive power and unconstitutional. If he were President, the Senator added, and it were passed, he would veto it, and if it passed again he would refuse to obey it on the grounds of being in conflict with the Constitution.

"I do not think we can gain much by challenging the motives of the Senators who proposed this legislation or those opposed to it," said Senator Reed, of Missouri, following Senator Williams. "It is not a habit of men to clinch their argument or lack of argument by inferring their opponents are friends of the Kaiser."

Motives Declared Highest. Although opposed to Senator Hitchcock's position, Senator Reed said he knew the motives of both Mr. Nebraska Senator and Senator Chamberlain were unimpeachable.

What the investigations have disclosed, the Missouri Senator said, cannot be termed "flyspecks" or "a slight defect in the heel of the perfect statue."

"If 7000 men in the cold winter leave their homes and are not furnished with sufficient clothing, that is not a flyspeck," he continued. "If soldiers are permitted to die in hospitals because of want of proper medical attention; if their bodies are allowed to lie on the floor, that is not a speck."

"If ships have not been bunkered with coal and coal is available, that is not a speck. That is of vital importance in carrying on the war, and those responsible for blundering have showed themselves capable of blundering, and

WHALE TO BE EATEN

Sea Mammal Meat Will Be Tried Out at New York.

LUNCHEON TO BE GIVEN

Food Administrator Hoover Invited to Attend Function Announced by President of Museum of National History.

SWEDISH SHIPS FIRED ON

RED GUARD MAKES PRESENCE FELT IN BOTHNIA GULF.

Vessels on Peaceful Mission Suspected of Transporting Troops and War Munitions.

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 4.—Swedish steamers, accompanied by a cutter and an ice-breaker, which had crossed the Gulf of Bothnia to take on Swedish subjects desiring to leave Finland on account of the revolution, were fired upon yesterday by members of the revolutionary Red Guard on the island of Raefso, near the Finnish port of Myantyloto.

Six shells burst within a short distance of the ice-breaker. Later Russian sailors and Red Guards boarded the gunboat and explained they had fired in the belief that the steamships were carrying troops and munitions.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—King Gustav of Sweden, according to a Stockholm dispatch to the Times, has received a deputation from the Aland Islands, which are in the Gulf of Bothnia, and have formed part of Finland. The islands were taken from Sweden by Russia in 1809. The population of the islands is about 25,000, mostly Swedes.

PAPER MEN ASK TIME

COAST FIGURES NOT YET IN SHAPE FOR PRESENTATION.

Publishers' Charges of Inequitable Contracts With Newspaper Makers Given Considerable Attention.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Requests by paper manufacturers for further time to present investment and production costs on which the Federal Trade Commission will fix a price for news print paper called forth from newspaper publishers at an open hearing a protest that they were not prepared to continue paying the maximum of 3 cents a pound under the tentative agreement if the commission was not enabled to complete its work by April 1.

Inequities charged by the publishers to exist in contracts for the purchase of paper were the subject of cross-examination of A. G. McIntyre, expert for the paper committee of the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

"Isn't the advance given by the paper committee intended to control the purchase of paper as much as possible?" Henry E. Wise, attorney for the manufacturers, asked.

"It is not," McIntyre replied.

KANSAS CITY TO CLEAN UP

Officials Ordered by U. S. to Remove Immoral Conditions.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 4.—Orders that Kansas City clean up alleged immoral conditions, which the War Department has had under investigation for several months, were conveyed to city officials today by Lieutenant E. R. Beckwith of the sanitary corps, central division.

NIGHT SCHOOL JUST BEGINNING

Second Term at Behnke-Walker BUSINESS COLLEGE ENROLL NOW

Good position as soon as competent. Read The Oregonian classified ads.

Mathis MEN'S WEAR

—even if it's only a 5c collar button

The appreciation of your business is not gauged by the number of dollars you spend in this store. Some of our finest patrons are numbered among men who make it a point not to buy shirts over \$1.50—or a hat for more than \$3.00—or a suit or overcoat for more than \$20.00 or \$25.00—yet we are just as glad to see them come in our door as the man who pays higher prices. Mathis service to the highest degree belongs to you, regardless of the price you pay. Put us to the test—try us sometime even on the smallest, lowest price things—even if it's only a 5c collar button.

Corbett Building Corner of Fifth and Morrison

QUEEN SENDS MESSAGE

Proof of Sympathy for Suffering Belgium of Greatest Comfort.

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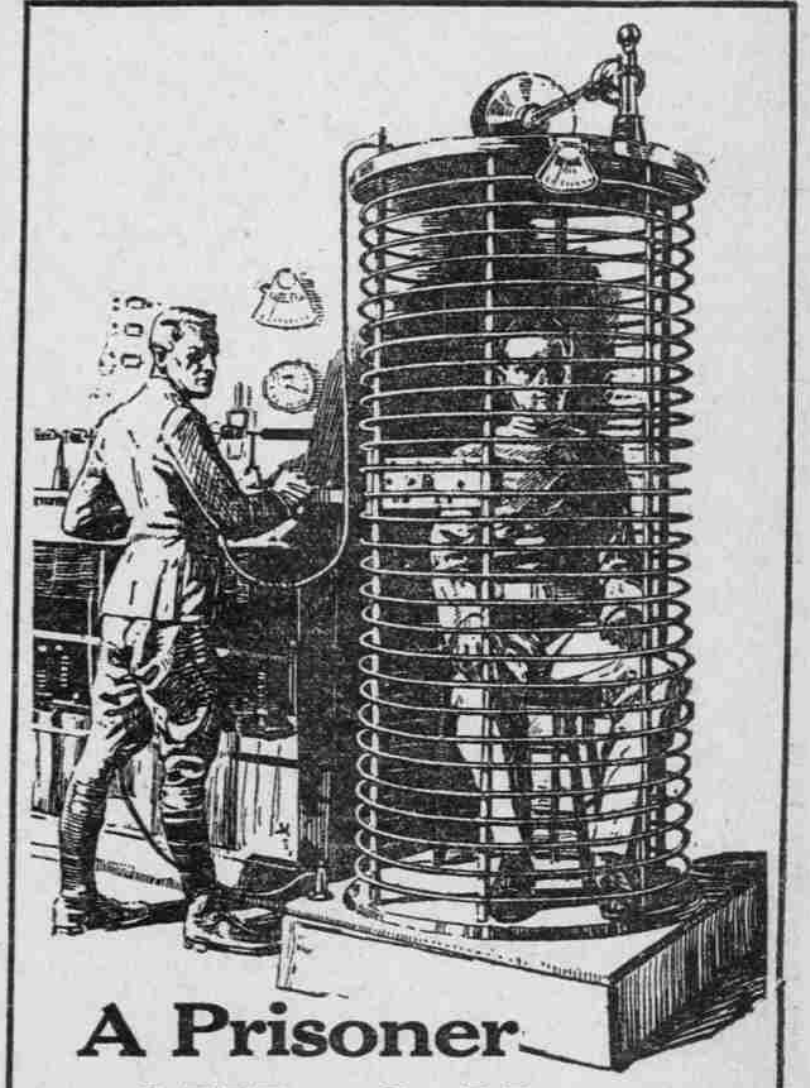
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A Wounded Soldier! Read why a cage like this will soon be placed in every American War Hospital. This electric cage is one of the 200 new marvels of science that you will learn all about in the February Popular Science Monthly.

All the new inventions—the deadly new war machines, the new labor saving devices, money-making patents—300 pictures, 200 articles as vivid as the movies, as brief as telegrams—that's the February Popular Science Monthly.

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Making Cannons out of Ice
Newest Automobile Accessories
Canning the baby at night
Golf in your Parlor
Canopus, the Mightiest Sun in the Universe
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8000 Germans Electrocutted in One Attack
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