

PRESIDENT WILSON SEES NEW POWER

Senate Bill Would Confer Blanket War Authority on Executive.

BAKER AGAIN QUESTIONED

Secretary in Course of Answers Admits His State of Unpreparedness in Matter of Information Sought by Committee.

(Continued From First Page.)

Editorial in his first statement by saying the War Department had done more than the magazine contended it should.

"Did the editor have any information other than an ordinary citizen might have had at that time?" asked Senator Weeks.

"Oh, no," said Mr. Baker, adding that the August issue of the magazine had been quite certain that the department could do more toward training troops than it suggested and also that there was good promise that more could be done toward getting them to France than the article proposed.

Troop Schedule Exceeded. Senator Weeks asked if the War Department had succeeded in doing as much as it had hoped for in October.

"I can answer that in this way," Mr. Baker said. "On January 1 we had transported to France more troops than our schedule had called for."

"Both combatant and non-combatant troops?" asked Senator Weeks.

"That is the aggregate," Mr. Baker said.

Senator Weeks asked what tonnage the War Department had available. He said he had heard that it had 751,000 tons on February 1. Mr. Baker did not know exactly, but thought that was an underestimate.

Senator Weeks asked if the department figured on net, gross or deadweight tonnage. He said he had heard that the German statements of tonnage destruction by submarine were based on deadweight calculations and the English on net tonnage, which made the apparently divergent figures given by each side very close together, in fact.

Baker Lacks Information. Mr. Baker could not enlighten the Senator on the point. Before General Bliss went to Europe, Mr. Baker said, an exhaustive study of the shipping situation was made. It was reviewed before he went back the second time to attend the sessions of the supreme war council.

The Secretary said the War Department had kept in closest touch with the Shipping Board, and the supreme war council had the data on which to rely.

"Is there any prospect of more tonnage becoming available at an early date?" asked Senator Weeks.

"Oh, yes," Mr. Baker said. "I recall now that 150,000 tons additional has become available during the last 10 days."

"The vessels were withdrawn from various lines, where they had been replaced by neutral shipping."

Much of the tonnage originally available for men and supplies had been diverted to the harbor and arsenal projects abroad, he said, and the purchase of artillery abroad had served to relieve shipping somewhat, although the necessity of transporting raw materials for the guns had figured in the final result.

Confidential Issue Raised. Examination of Secretary Baker's statement while Senators discussed confidential information. The discussion was precipitated by Senator Reed, who thought the committee was entitled to exact information of the number of men now in France and on other subjects.

Chairman Chamberlain, as well as Senators Hitchcock and McKellar, favored an open session and to let the Secretary indicate what questions he would rather answer in private.

As Secretary Baker's statement on which he is being cross-examined was made at an open hearing, Mr. McKellar said he thought the committee would make a mistake in not examining him at a similar hearing.

"I think the committee and the public are entitled to know where he purposes to get the tonnage to supply the men abroad," continued the Nebraska Senator. "I think the Secretary ought to be able to put those figures before us to back up his statement that he expects to have a million men over there this year."

Executive Session Called. "I think the whole question of ships ought to be discussed in an executive session," said Secretary Baker in reply to the Chairman Chamberlain, who asked his views. The tonnage market, he added, involved international arrangements and he suggested that he be permitted to prepare a statement to show the present status.

"I don't think it is necessary for the Secretary to come here to disclose facts in order to justify statements he has made," interrupted Senator Kirby, Democrat. "I am opposed to it. I think the committee in executive session ought to determine just how far it is going in this investigation."

Secretary Baker agreed that the committee should have every available fact, including confidential information, Senator Weeks said he wanted to develop just what could be done in getting the tonnage.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more ships than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

ting men, munitions and other products abroad, but without disclosing confidential matter.

The Massachusetts Senator said, however, he thought there was a good deal of camouflage about keeping information from the enemy which is published in annual reports and otherwise.

Unfortunate Move Admitted. "I want to make a suggestion, if I may," Secretary Baker interposed. "The misfortune for me, if I may call it such, in my first statement to the committee, lay in the fact that I attempted to give opinions of the broad general situation as I saw it, when the information lay in details that ought to have been gotten from the experts in direct charge, or in statistics giving specific facts. I was attempting to make a general statement."

"It was a misfortune for me to do that. I think it better to give the committee specific statements and the committee is entitled to that."

Secretary Baker proposed to have detailed statements of information prepared at the department and submitted to the committee and then if the committee desired to cross-examine him later regarding the statements he would be glad to return.

Senator Hitchcock asked if the Secretary would object to giving the committee the basis for his opinion that he expected 1,000,000 men would be in France before Fall.

"Not in the least," said Mr. Baker. "I could have the committee go into the adjoining room and give it to you in three seconds."

Hitchcock Demands Publicity. Senator Hitchcock thought the information should be given the same publicity as his first statement.

"The secretary conveyed to the country," said Senator Hitchcock, "information that I think was very unfortunate. Did you consider shipping an important factor?"

"Very important—controlling," Mr. Baker replied. "I was not relying wholly on the supply of American shipping."

Senator Hitchcock asked how many tons of American shipping could be depended upon, and the secretary said he could not give the information.

The Nebraska Senator said he secured from the Shipping Board a statement of available American tonnage on November 30, that there were 532 ships of 3,721,895 deadweight tons, including tankers and former German and Austrian ships, all over 1500 tons.

"That was the grand total at the disposal of the United States," said Senator Hitchcock, adding that excluding passenger ships, tankers and other non-cargo carrying ships, only about 1,400,000 tons was available for supply and transportation of troops.

Memory Proves Pesky. Senator Hitchcock asked Secretary Baker if that statement confirmed to his information, and the secretary said he could not remember.

"If that statement is correct, how many troops can we supply in Europe," persisted Senator Hitchcock.

"I can't answer that," said Secretary Baker. "It would depend on the basis of calculation."

Senator Hitchcock said he understood the basis was five tons per man. Senator Weeks said he thought it was 50 pounds per man per day.

Senator Beckham interrupted, protesting these efforts to drag out of the Secretary, indirectly by probing questions, information which would be of value to the enemy.

Senator Hitchcock said he did not wish to be misunderstood, but desired to find the basis of Mr. Baker's "assurance to the country" that a million men could be transported to France during 1918.

"You said you expected to have one million men in France in 1918. Now, how would you supply them?" he continued.

Mr. Baker read from his original statement that he had said a million and a half troops would be available for shipment in 1918 and that the prospect of forwarding them "was not unpromising."

Tonnage Basis of Estimate. "Why do you think it is not unpromising?" insisted Senator Hitchcock.

Secretary Baker replied that estimates made as to available tonnage indicated the possibility.

When he had made the statement, Secretary Baker added, there was in his mind the conclusions of the Shipping Board as to what tonnage it could produce in 1918. There were other factors as to shipping, he added, such as vessels in non-essential trades or on domestic routes which might be released by sailing ships or neutral tonnage.

"I am asking you for the basis of your assurance to the country that the prospect of having a million men in France in 1918," persisted Senator Hitchcock.

"I am anxious to tell you what is in my mind," said Secretary Baker, asking again that he be permitted to explain his statement as far as possible without disclosing military information.

Before General Bliss went to Europe, he said, the subject was discussed with members of the Shipping Board and others as to the extent to which the Emergency Fleet Corporation would supplement the existing tonnage, and the extent that tonnage then available to America would need to be supplemented by international arrangements in order to carry out the allied program.

Secretary Baker said he did not personally determine the question, but that it was done by General Bliss and others.

Freder Answers Awaited. Upon Senator Weeks' suggestion, the committee dropped the shipping question until the Secretary could get information from his department to properly answer the questions. This would be furnished to the committee in executive session.

Senator Kirby wanted to adjourn until tomorrow, when an executive session would be held, but other Senators objected and the examination went on.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

The Senator said he wanted to know in order to determine if we are buying more shoes than are necessary.

Senator Weeks then asked Secretary Baker if he knew how many pairs of shoes were required per man in the British and French armies. Mr. Baker did not know, but he would obtain the information.

letter to the chairman," Senator New of Indiana, Republican, interrupted.

"That the meeting be held in a large room where all Senators and Representatives who desired could attend. Many Senators objected and held it was unbecoming, and this larger room was in deference to the Secretary."

Senator Reed said he was somewhat inclined to the view that it would be better to put "all our cards on the table."

"It might be well," he said, "to say we have got so many men and so many guns and so many ships and we are going to be at your throat at a certain time, but that is not the way we are proceeding."

Senator Frelinghuysen interrupted and Senator Reed yielded.

"I want to ask a question, which I hope will pass the censor," said Senator Frelinghuysen, with his eyes fixed on Senator Reed.

A tilt followed in which Senator Reed declared he had not been trying to "censor" the meeting.

Senator Frelinghuysen turned to Secretary Baker with the statement that the committee was not interested in the punishment of medical officers found negligent, but in the protection of the men in the camps.

Health Measures Adopted. He said Surgeon-General Gorgas had stated to the committee that he lacked authority to draw the public health service into the camp sanitation work.

"Has that subject been given any consideration?" he asked.

Secretary Baker said the recommendations of the American Public Health Association had been adopted with the approval of the Surgeon-General of the Army and Navy.

"Then you think you have the health of the men well in hand," said Senator Frelinghuysen.

"Yes."

"Do you expect to keep soldiers in the Southern camps during the Summer?"

"I can't answer," the Secretary replied. "It depended much upon the nature of the Summer weather, he said. If it was comparatively as severe as the Winter, he said, it would be necessary to move some of the troops."

Statements attributed to Lord Northcliffe, saying preparations were being made in America for raising an Army, but little was being done to provide for its transportation across the ocean were read by Senator Hitchcock.

Memory Again Fails. Secretary Baker said he had not heard of the statement and could not remember if the subject had been discussed in conferences with Lord Northcliffe.

Declaring that "everybody knows that about half the men, both officers and enlisted men in the camps have never been trained with artillery or machine guns," Senator McKellar asked the secretary if he thought it wise to send men to France untrained.

Secretary Baker replied that many artillery officers were being trained in France at a school turned over by the French, and that it took more time to train artillery men than officers.

"The plan of the department," the secretary added, "is to give as much training in this country as possible by concentrating artillery supplies in units likeliest to go first to France, but in no case for them to be used in combat until their training is completed on the other side. I, therefore, do not think it unwise to send men over who are not completely trained."

Pershing's Opinion to Decide. "Is it unwise to send men not trained at all, men who have never seen artillery or machine guns?" asked Senator McKellar, stating a Major had told him that at his camp only the commanding general had ever seen a six-inch gun.

"Yes, I think it would be right; that is, I do not think it would be right to send untrained men into combat, but I would not hesitate if the necessity should arise to send raw recruits to France to be trained there, and adequately trained, if General Pershing thought it the wisest thing to do. They can be trained in France as well as here."

"General Pershing," Secretary Baker explained, "knows exactly what is needed to make a finished soldier for this kind of warfare. He sends us his priority schedules whether for shipment of artillery, infantry, signal corps or other arms of the service. It depends on the length of time he wants them to have additional training."

Senator McKellar, said Surgeon-General Gorgas that the Secretary Baker had directed that cantonments be completed before hospitals were finished.

"Why did you do that?" demanded the Senator.

"I never gave any order on that subject, nor do I recall any divergence of opinion between the Surgeon-General and myself," replied the Secretary.

Artillery Details Asked. Senator McKellar asked for details as to the amount of artillery furnished to the training camps in this country which Mr. Baker had mentioned.

He read a brief statement showing that National Guard artillery brigades have been 40 per cent equipped with three-inch guns, and that the National Army cantonments have been supplied with from one to six batteries each. Every howitzer regiment has at least two 4.2 guns for practice.

Secretary agreed that more guns were necessary for efficient training.

Senator Wadsworth asked Mr. Baker to explain the functions of Edward H. Stettinius, recently appointed surveyor-general of War Department supply.

Mr. Baker said he had told Mr. Stettinius that his function was to grow, and that the theory was to bring the needs of the five purchasing bureaus before Mr. Stettinius so he might review them and straighten out conflicting needs.

"I won't hesitate to come to Congress for legislation as soon as it is apparent that it is necessary," Secretary Baker added.

"Have you changed your views regarding the minister of munitions bill?" asked Senator Weeks.

"Discussion of a matter of munitions is difficult unless we know just what is meant," the Secretary replied. "I think we have now an agency that correlates all the purchases of the War Department."

This agency included shipping, he added, saying he did not think it would be necessary to crunch out the systems now used which would result should such a measure be passed.

That Daniel Willard and Bernard Baruch, of the War Industries Board, had "testified strongly in favor of centralized purchasing power was cited by Senator McKellar.

"Don't you think it is time we should listen to these men of experience?" he asked.

"I think the difficulty of the board has not been lacking power," Secretary Baker replied. "The lack of facilities to do all of the things it has been gradually preparing itself to do."

"So far as I know, there is no difference between them and me. All of us have changed our minds constantly. But," he added, "nothing could be more unfortunate than to start all over again with a centralized purchasing agency outside of the department."

Senator McKellar and others broke in with statements that such was not the purpose.

Stettinius More Than Director. "Isn't it true that Mr. Stettinius is practically a director of munitions today in the War Department?" asked Senator Frelinghuysen.

"A little more than that," Secretary Baker replied. "Because the munitions director under the English system does not deal with the variety of things that Mr. Stettinius does."

"Why don't you put Mr. Stettinius at the head of the Council of National Defense and the War Industries Board and make him, in effect, director of munitions?" asked Senator Frelinghuysen.

"There is no occasion for the intervention of a new body," replied Mr. Baker.

Business Views Cited. Senator Weeks asked if it were shown that a majority of business men called to aid the Government were of the opinion that legislation for centralizing munitions director was necessary, would the Secretary change his attitude.

"But I agree with them," declared the Secretary.

"But you are not doing that," said Senator Weeks.

"I think we are," said the Secretary. "I can't find a single business man of any standing who does not agree that the proposition provided for in the munitions director bill should be adopted."

"My memory is that the gentlemen did not endorse this bill," declared Senator Beckham, Democrat, of Kentucky, referring to the testimony given before the committee by civilian members of the various war boards.

"We did express the idea that there should be some centralization of power in purchasing," he added. "Some thought that the reorganization plan of the War Department would meet the situation."

"They said they thought the War Department plan was an improvement," insisted Senator Weeks.

The committee then adjourned until an executive session tomorrow morning, when it will examine Major-General Wheeler on supplies of explosives. After Secretary Baker submits his statistics, another public hearing may be arranged.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

GET READY!

Coming

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 9

AMERICA'S GREATEST

AMERICAN STORY

FROM THE BOOK BY

Winston Churchill

8 POWERFUL ACTS

AT NO RAISE IN PRICES

ONLY TODAY AND TOMORROW

MABEL

NORMAND

in

DODGING

A MILLION

THE FIRST REAL 1918 COMEDY HIT

DEFENSE AND THE WAR INDUSTRIES BOARD AND MAKE HIM, IN EFFECT, DIRECTOR OF MUNITIONS?" asked Senator Frelinghuysen.

"There is no occasion for the intervention of a new body," replied Mr. Baker.

Problem of the War Industries Board. Mr. Baker added, was not only to determine priority between the Government departments, but also to distribute orders so as to dislocate industry as little as possible.

"Should you not have another department to act as a clearing-house, headed by a business man and direct all purchases?" persisted Senator Frelinghuysen.

"No," insisted Mr. Baker. "I think that that would be a mistake."

Business Views Cited. Senator Weeks asked if it were shown that a majority of business men called to aid the Government were of the opinion that legislation for centralizing munitions director was necessary, would the Secretary change his attitude.

"But I agree with them," declared the Secretary.

"But you are not doing that," said Senator Weeks.

"I think we are," said the Secretary. "I can't find a single business man of any standing who does not agree that the proposition provided for in the munitions director bill should be adopted."

"My memory is that the gentlemen did not endorse this bill," declared Senator Beckham, Democrat, of Kentucky, referring to the testimony given before the committee by civilian members of the various war boards.

"We did express the idea that there should be some centralization of power in purchasing," he added. "Some thought that the reorganization plan of the War Department would meet the situation."

"They said they thought the War Department plan was an improvement," insisted Senator Weeks.

The committee then adjourned until an executive session tomorrow morning, when it will examine Major-General Wheeler on supplies of explosives. After Secretary Baker submits his statistics, another public hearing may be arranged.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

After Many Remedies—