

BUILDING DELAYED BY ADMIRAL CAPP'S

Steel Ship Construction Long Held Up.

WOOD WORK IS HANDICAPPED

Southern Pine Producers Unable to Deliver Timber.

COAST MATERIAL NOW USED

Chairman Hurley, of Shipping Board, Charles Piez, of Fleet Corporation, and Others Testify at Senate Investigation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Testimony today of Shipping Board officials in the Senate's investigation of delays to the building programme, disclosed that the start on construction of fabricated steel ships was delayed two months by the refusal of Rear-Admiral Capps, formerly general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, to close contracts negotiated by his predecessor, Major-General Goethals, until many generations in them were made.

The fabricating construction delay and other delays to the programme were brought out in questions asked by the Senate commerce committee conducting the inquiry of Chairman Hurley and John A. Donald, of the Shipping Board, Charles Piez, new general manager of the corporation, and Rear-Admiral Bowles, his aide.

Some of the causes for the general delay in both steel and wooden construction were given by the witnesses as changes in specifications, differences between Admiral Capps and builders, and slow delivery of materials. The accumulation of delays, Mr. Hurley admitted under questioning, brought about the recent reorganization of the fleet corporation which ended in Admiral Capps' resignation.

Southern Pine Deliveries Slow.

The wooden building programme was held back largely, Mr. Piez testified, by the inability of southern pine producers to deliver timber. The condition of affairs was uncovered by an investigating committee headed by Mr. Piez, which made a tour of the yards for the Shipping Board.

"Whose fault was that?" Mr. Piez was asked.

"I do not know," he replied. "I understand that the Southern Pine Association promised to deliver the timbers and then fell down on the order."

"What are you doing to correct the situation?"

"We are having fir brought from the Pacific Coast."

Many contracts already let for wooden ships in the East will have to be transferred to the West, Mr. Piez added, in order to get the vessels completed, as sufficient timber cannot be had in the East.

Senator Nelson directed a long series of questions at Mr. Piez to learn why a practical shipbuilder would not be a proper man for general manager.

"Are you a shipbuilder?" asked the Senator.

"Pies Not Ship Builder."

"No," replied Mr. Piez, "but I have had large experience in organization and manufacturing work."

"Don't you think it would be better to have a practical builder at the head of the shipping programme?"

"I have engineering training and have a force of experts under me."

"I want you to understand, Senator, (Continued on Page 6, Column 3.)

NEW YORK DOWN TO DAY'S FUEL SUPPLY

DRASTIC CONSERVATION MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Committee Will Be Appointed to Determine What Industries Will Be Allowed Coal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—With only about a day's supply of fuel in the city in excess of its needs, drastic conservation measures were under consideration today at a conference between Albert H. Wiggin and Reeves Schley, fuel administrators respectively, for New York State and New York County.

"We are not going to be drastic to the extent of causing an industrial eruption, however," said Mr. Wiggin in announcing that a conservation committee would be appointed, three members of which were to be coal men. This committee, in accordance with instructions from the Federal fuel administration, will determine what industries are to be supplied with coal after domestic needs have been met.

"The cutting off of heat and light to such places as skating rinks and cabarets, the dimming of electric advertising signs and the elimination of excess lighting in public places are understood to be some of the measures which probably will be taken to save fuel.

While these precautions were being considered, coal dealers announced that more coal for New York City reached New Jersey tidewater points today than had been received there in any like period this winter.

HOTEL BUS FELS MAN

Unidentified Pedestrian Run Over at Sixth and Davis Streets.

An unidentified pedestrian about 50 years old was badly injured at 8:30 o'clock last night by being struck by the Oregon Hotel bus, driven by Chester Elliott, at Sixth and Davis streets. He was taken to St. Vincent's hospital at 7:30 P. M.

The chauffeur reported to Harry P. Coffin, chairman of the public safety commission, that he was driving north on Sixth street about 12 miles an hour when the man stepped out from behind another machine. The fender of the bus struck the pedestrian, carried him a few feet and then dropped him under the wheels.

GERMANS AGAIN TRY RAID

One Hostile Airplane Forced to Descend in England.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—An air raid was attempted on the Kentish coast shortly after 6 o'clock tonight. One raider was forced to descend close to the coast, the crew of three being captured alive. No other machines have come over land at this time.

A second attack developed about 8:30, when a few bombs were dropped in Thanet. The raiders did not penetrate further inland. No casualties or damage resulted.

GERMAN LOSSES ASSERTED

Krupp Plant Reported Quadrupled to Keep Submarines Supplied.

GENEVA, Dec. 22.—The Krupp has recently quadrupled their naval plant near Kiel, according to a dispatch from Berlin by way of Bern to La Suisse.

This was done at the request of the German government for the purpose of making up losses in submarines, which, the dispatch asserts, have been heavier than the German Admiralty admits.

101 VICTIMS OF SUBMARINE

British Armed Steamer Torpedoed in Irish Channel.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The British armed steamer Stephen Furness has been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Irish Channel, it was officially announced today.

Six officers and 95 men were lost.

FURIOUS ASSAULT REGAINS ASOLONE

Italians Drive Back Teutons in Night.

FIGHTING TERRIFIC ALL DAY

Sleeping Garrison on Summit of Mountain Surprised.

SERIOUS MENACE REMOVED

Italian Sailors and Marines, Land-Ed From Fleet, Attack Enemy Attempting to Cross Old Piave at Nearest Point to Venice.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY IN NORTHERN ITALY, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—In a succession of brilliant attacks throughout yesterday and today the Italians succeeded in dislodging the enemy from a great part of Monte Asolone and driving him back more than two-thirds of a mile along a three-mile front.

Asolone Serious Menace.

The enemy's occupation of Asolone was regarded as a serious menace, because it gave him partial control of San Lorenzo Valley, leading to the plain and Bassano.

A determined effort was made, therefore, to redeem the position. The first attack was in darkness at 2 o'clock yesterday morning, when a small detachment of the Seventh Infantry climbed Monte Asolone and made a furious charge on the sleeping garrison. For a time the little band was beyond the summit, but was finally driven back by superior numbers.

Fighting Furious All Day.

The day attack began at 10 o'clock in the morning, when the Alpini and Seventh Regiments advanced on a three-mile front, having Asolone as its center. The left and center moved straight ahead, while the right executed a turning movement which partially enveloped the enemy position on Asolone. The fighting was furious all through the day and into the darkness of last night, when the Italians had again mastered the strategic points of Asolone, and the enemy was pushed back for nearly a mile.

Marines Drive Back Enemy.

The enemy's effort to cross the old Piave at the nearest point to Venice has been thrown back by Italian sailors and marines. The enemy used armed flatboats carrying a storming party. The Italians landed a party from the fleet and engaged in the enemy, driving him back and sinking one of his armed boats.

BOMBS WRECK FARM HOUSE

Samuel Biesel, Wife and Five Children Receive Warning.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 22.—(Special)—Bombs were set off on three sides of the house occupied by Samuel Biesel, wife and five small children on Cedar Flat, near Hendricks bridge, Thursday night and Friday morning. Biesel found a warning, with skull and crossbones and the words, "Move out."

The explosions occurred at about 11 o'clock at night. One destroyed the woodshed and the others damaged the house and broke the windows.

The officers, working under the direction of Sheriff J. C. Parker, are making an investigation. Biesel is said to have had some trouble with residents of that neighborhood over the use of the range.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.

TEMPERATURE—Maximum temperature, 57 degrees; minimum, 47 degrees.

TODAY'S—Unsettled, probably rain; moderate winds, mostly westerly.

Russians quit peace conference with Germans, in report. Section 1, page 8.

American women working to restore devastated districts of France. Section 1, page 8.

Italians in furious assault regain Mount Asolone. Section 1, page 1.

Foreign.

Canada bars liquors to save grain. Section 1, page 2.

Japan's Krupp plant at Essen reported damaged seriously by fire. Section 1, page 6.

Japan declares reports of army mobilization groundless. Section 1, page 6.

War shaking pessimism of German public. Section 1, page 5.

Ex-Premier Caillaux, of France, will be tried for treason. Section 1, page 1.

National.

Steel ship construction delayed by action of Admiral Capps. Section 1, page 1.

Domestic.

New York is down to single day's fuel supply. Section 1, page 1.

30 arrested in Sacramento. Section 1, page 3.

2000 men train at San Diego school. Section 1, page 4.

152 enlisted men will attend three officers' training camp. Section 1, page 17.

Courtesy by victory. Section 2, page 4.

Confession reported in notorious Koot kidnaping case. Section 1, page 8.

Packers' side lines widely ramify in Congressional inquiry. Section 1, page 6.

Sports.

Seattle's fighting fireman is star. Section 1, page 1.

National Collegiate Association meet Friday. Section 2, page 1.

State swimming and diving meet is January 1. Section 2, page 2.

Mount Angel basketball team's prospects bright. Section 2, page 2.

Judge McCredie asks favor to help pick manager for Coits. Section 2, page 2.

Basketball prospects at Eugene gloomy. Section 2, page 2.

Philadelphia angry over sale of Alexander and Killifer. Section 2, page 3.

Athletic benefits against proposed schedule. Section 2, page 4.

"Big Ten" fix track and baseball schedules. Section 2, page 4.

Goal work on mat unsurpassed. Section 2, page 4.

California boxers gain good reputations in regard to the ex-Premier after the latter had made a long address in defense of his position and alleged actions, and had asked that his Parliamentary immunity be suspended so that he might be tried and receive "justice concerning all the calumnies" to which he had been subjected.

Public Interest Intense.

"I demand a trial," exclaimed the ex-Premier concluding his address, "so that my voice may not be stifled by the rolling tumbler of a new santerre."

The proceedings in the Chamber of Deputies when the report of the Chamber's committee on the question of the suspension of immunity of M. Caillaux and Deputy Loustalot came up for discussion interested the public intensely, as was indicated by the fur-clad groups of men and women waiting in the freezing atmosphere outside early today for the Chamber to open.

Caillaux Makes Reply.

Almost all the seats were occupied when President Deschanel's bell rang and M. Caillaux, for the investigating committee, rose to explain his findings.

M. Caillaux entered at the juncture carrying a bundle of letters and documents. Deputy Loustalot was next heard, reading a brief declaration in a tremulous voice, expressing his indignation at being accused of complicity in treasonable transactions. M. Caillaux then rose.

"I will reply to the accusations of which I am the object," he said, "with as much reserve and as much self-control as possible."

Country Served, Is Asserted.

"I am not accused of betraying my country for money, no! But for ambition," the former Premier continued, and then declared with emphasis: "Never have I tried, directly or indirectly, to come into contact with our enemies. Never have I used subterranean paths to succeed in a foreign policy."

"I have always to the full measure of my powers served my country."

"The only reproach anyone could make to me is that I have been too reserved."

The Chamber listened in absolute silence while M. Caillaux reviewed his various relationships, which have been regarded by his accusers as suspicious. He denied having sent Boio Pasha abroad or that he had anything to do with Boio's seeking of funds in the United States to buy the Journal.

As for the Bonnet Rouge, that was a political affair, he asserted, and then entered into further explanations. In regard to the Foreign Office de-

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CAILLAUX WILL BE TRIED FOR TREASON

Immunity Is Revoked at ex-Premier's Demand.

ACCUSATIONS MEET DENIAL

French Deputies Suspend Parliamentary Right, 417 to 2.

CROWDS ATTEND SESSION

In Impassioned Speech Before Body of Chamber, Man Charged With Dealing Treasonably With Enemy Demands Inquiry.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—A resolution was adopted in the Chamber of Deputies today depriving ex-Premier Joseph Caillaux of Parliamentary immunity in the accusations against him for alleged treasonable dealings with the enemy. The vote on the resolution was 417 to 2.

A similar resolution in regard to Deputy Louis Loustalot was adopted with a show of hands by the chamber. The chamber adopted the resolution in regard to the ex-Premier after the latter had made a long address in defense of his position and alleged actions, and had asked that his Parliamentary immunity be suspended so that he might be tried and receive "justice concerning all the calumnies" to which he had been subjected.

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GERMAN IS SEIZED ON DRAFT ANSWER

FRANK MEYER SAYS HE WOULD FIGHT FOR KAISER.

Restaurant Worker, 26, Checks Himself in Questionnaire as Alien Enemy.

Frank Meyer, German resident of Portland, is believed to be the first Oregon registrant to have put himself in jail by means of questionnaire answers. Meyer listed himself an alien enemy. Now he is in Multnomah County jail and is to be interned for the duration of the war.

"There is no 50-50 in me," Deputy United States Attorney Robert R. Rankin reports Meyer as having exclaimed as he was being questioned regarding his sworn allegiance to Germany.

"If you were to say that you would, if you had the chance, return to Germany and take up arms against the United States?" Mr. Rankin interrogated.

Meyer balked, and had to be shown the right of the examiner to ask this question. Convinced on this point he blurted out:

"Of course, I would."

"Marshal, take the man and hold him for internment," rejoined the Government inquisitor.

Meyer was arrested yesterday morning by Deputy United States Marshal E. T. Mass, at 251 Burnside street, in a restaurant, where he was employed. The arrest was due to the nature of the answers the young German had recorded in filling out his questionnaire.

In the questionnaire Meyer, who gave his age as 26, checked himself as an alien enemy and answered "yes" to the query as to whether or not he was willing to return to his native country and "enter its military service."

PATROLS KILL TEUTON SPY

Had Drawings of Troop Camps, Fort Bliss and Other Fortifications.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 22.—Charles H. Feige was shot and killed by United States Army patrols when he attempted to cross the river to Mexico here late today. Feige was believed to have been a German spy, and when his papers were examined a notebook, drawings and ground plans of troop camps, Fort Bliss and other fortifications near here were found.

He also carried a camera with him and was believed to have been obtaining military information for transmission to Germany through Mexico.

PACIFIST GETS YEAR IN JAIL

Leader of Conscientious Objectors to Be Drafted After He Serves.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 22.—John W. Riss, pacifist, Socialist and exponent of the doctrines of conscientious objectors against war, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment by Judge Johnson in the Federal Court today for failure to present himself for physical examination in connection with the draft.

Riss will be available for military service when his prison term expires.

NATURE STUDENT BURNED

Miss Opal Whitely Inhales Flame When Coal Oil Ignites.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 22.—(Special)—Miss Opal Whitely, well-known nature student, who is attending the University of Oregon, sustained painful burns of the face here today. The accident happened where she has been rooming while attending school.

Miss Whitely was carrying two quarts of coal oil near a stove when it ignited. She inhaled some of the flames, but it is not believed her injuries are of a permanent nature.

Republicans to Confer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—It was announced at Republican National Committee headquarters today that Chairman Willcox has called a meeting of the committee in St. Louis February 12.

It is understood Chairman Willcox recently has told friends pressure of other business makes it desirable for him to retire.

BOYS IN KHAKI WILL PASS HOLIDAY HERE

Advance Guard of 1000 in From Camp Lewis.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT APPARENT

Great Free Attraction to Be Staged at Auditorium.

BANKS REWARD EMPLOYEES

Santa Claus Will Bring Gifts to Little Folk Marooned on Trains and Everywhere Plans Are Going Ahead for Merry Day.

This will be essentially a soldiers' Christmas.

Two special trains of soldiers from Camp Lewis reached Portland last night, bringing about 1000 men in olive drab, who will spend the week end here, and a large proportion of them will be able to stay over for the holidays.

From Bremerton, Fort Stevens, Vancouver Barracks and other military and naval camps roundabout will come large numbers of men in the service of the Nation, who will turn to Portland for Christmas.

Big Entertainment Planned.

The municipal Auditorium will stage a big entertainment for soldiers Christmas day, with dancing and theatrical attractions, and refreshments at intervals, from noon until midnight. Soldiers and sailors, with their families or sweethearts, will be the only ones admitted. For them, of course, there will be no charge, and none others can get in at any price.

Girls of the Honor Guard and others will attend to make it an especially big holiday for the visiting soldiers. Local Vancouver houses will contribute acts and four bands will supply music for dancing. Twenty-five men of the aviation section stationed at Vancouver Barracks will serve as the floor committee.

Christmas Spirit Noted.

The Christmas spirit may be said to be already here. It was evidenced in the stores and on the streets yesterday, in homes and business houses. The shops are aglow with the tinsel and greenery of the season and there are more Christmas packages being shipped about the city for delivery than the town ever saw before.

Santa Claus invaded Portland banks yesterday, when usual Christmas gifts for employees were distributed. The United States National gave each one on the staff half of one month's salary as a reminder of the season, and the Northwestern National Bank gave each one \$25. The First National remembers its employees at Christmas by paying up for another year the premium on the group life insurance policy in effect throughout the institution. The Bank of California has distributed as a special Christmas token half of one month's salary.

Bonuses to Be Given.

This delightful Christmas custom will be observed widely throughout the city. Many business houses will recognize that their prosperity is due largely to the loyal work of employees, and will reward it with gifts at this season. Many of the biggest firms will distribute special bonus gifts, but the announcements will not be made until tomorrow or Christmas day. Numerous other establishments make their bonus payments on New Year's.

Travel has never been so heavy at this season as now. All rail lines report full trains with former records

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)

CARTOONIST REYNOLDS GIVES US THIS PICTORIAL INTERPRETATION OF SOME RECENT NEWS EVENTS.

