

FULL CO-OPERATION LACKING, SAYS SIMS

Naval Operations in War Face Wider Inquiry

DELAY HELD UNNECESSARY

Admiral's Letter Cites Order "That U. S. Would Just as Soon Fight British as Germans."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Investigation by a senate sub-committee of awards of naval decorations took a new angle today when Rear Admiral William S. Sims, the only witness heard so far, laid before the committee a long letter entitled "Certain naval lessons of the great war" written by him to Secretary Daniels, arranging many aspects of the navy department's conduct of the war.

Lack of full co-operation with the commander of the American naval forces overseas, the post filled by Admiral Sims throughout the war, was the general criticism made, but the letter contained also a statement that just before he left for London, Admiral Sims was told "not to let the British pull the wool over your eyes" and that the United States would as soon fight the British as the Germans.

Who issued these orders was not brought out but Admiral Sims said afterwards the statement had been made to him by "a high official."

Wider Inquiry to Be Asked

Introduction of the letter prompted Chairman Hale, republican, Maine, to announce that he would ask the full naval committee Monday to authorize his sub-committee to make a wider inquiry or to appoint another sub-committee to investigate the conduct of the war by the navy department.

In a statement relative to Admiral Sims' letter, Secretary Daniels said he had referred it to the general board "with directions to give consideration to it and to all other communications directed to the department concerning the lessons of the war."

The letter declares that important as a guide in future wars that "at least estimate be made of the errors of policy, tactics, strategy and administration that were committed by our navy" and adds that it is "for that purpose that the most serious of these errors" are summarized. Then follows the recital of the officers assigned to London by the department in notice in March, 1917, and this statement regarding his instructions:

Letter Contains 7000 Words.
"Brief orders were delivered to me verbally in Washington. No formal instructions or statements of the navy department's plan or policy were given at that time, though I received the following explicit admonition: 'Don't let the British pull the wool over your eyes. It is none of our business pulling their chestnuts out of the fire. We would as soon fight the British as the Germans.'"

The letter contained more than 7000 words and was written January 7. It reviewed Admiral Sims' conduct of the war and said that at the time he left for Europe he had no idea that he was to command a fleet of American forces abroad in event of war, then impending.

As soon as he arrived in London, the letter said, Admiral Sims realized that the navy department did not comprehend the seriousness of the submarine menace, due to the insufficient scope of the American intelligence service.

Sims' Story Startles

Daniels charging the department with having bungled and mismanaged from some time before the war began until more than a year after, with the result, as he contended, that the American navy never gave efficient co-operation to the allies.

The letter, containing numerous strong indictments of the navy department, is one that Secretary Daniels mentioned in a public statement recently and which he said he received, but stopped reading it when he found it contained nothing but criticism of the navy department. The letter, for the first time today when Admiral Sims, by the aid of the majority of the committee, was permitted to read it.

"The audience was aghast when he read that about the only orders he had when he departed for Europe in March, 1917, just shortly before the United States entered the war, was this admonition: 'Don't let the British pull the wool over your eyes. It is none of our business pulling their chestnuts out of the fire. We would as soon fight the British as the Germans.'"

Enemy Success Recalled

"A review of the cables sent to the navy department in April, 1917," the letter said, "shows that the situation was very serious and that the enemy was rapidly winning the war by destruction of merchant shipping. Throughout the following six months numerous cables and letters of the most urgent possible character were sent with the object of impressing on the department the vital necessity of our maximum effort being exerted in European waters, with the least possible delay, but without producing the desired result."

The navy department was repeatedly told, the letter said, that it was a matter of simple arithmetical calculation to determine that the allies must lose the war if their rate of ship loss continued.

"For some reason, which has never been explained, the department failed to put into actual practice its half-hearted policy of co-operation with the allies—a policy required for winning the war with the least possible delay."

Co-operation Long Delayed

The letter charged that not until July, 1917, did the department outline a policy of naval co-operation with the allies.

"As usual in such cases," it continued, "the policy was academically sound, but that was not carried out nor was understood by the department." It is shown by the fact that for ten months after its receipt, it was as urgently recommending an increase of force—still trying to convince the department that the war was in the east Atlantic, that the United States naval "front" was off the European coast and not off the United States coast.

Admiral Sims testified that he was much embarrassed in his relations with other allied commanders by reason of the fact that although he was an allied naval officer it was recommended on July 21, 1917, that four coaling-berthing American battleships be sent to guard the English channel against German raider raids; there was long delay before the request was even acknowledged and finally it was refused.

Battleships Finally Arrive.
In the following November, the letter said, the earliest naval operations arrived in Europe with Colonel House's mission, and immediately thereafter cables and instructions to send the battleships. Two to six months could have been saved, Admiral Sims declared, if he could have appeared in person daily in Washington, as his attention was paid to his subtle recommendations.

"The recommendations of the navy department's representative based upon conferences with the allied commanders, should have been accepted and immediately acted upon," the letter said, and characterized the navy department's policy in this respect as a violation of the fundamental principles of warfare which continued throughout the war.

Admiral Sims declared that failure to heed his early plea that destroyers and light craft be hurried and to assign his staff officers and his aide who accompanied him abroad, was continued for four months, caused him serious loss of time.

Slight Information Received

The only information received up to April 27, 1917, was that six destroyers would be sent, Admiral Sims said. "The situation was then so very critical that I appealed to the Ameri-

DEMOCRATIC LEADER OUTLINES CAMPAIGN

H. S. Cummings Says Group Interest Will Be Disregarded

PEACE TREATY INDORSED

National Chairman Declares Racial Objections Are Mere Noise In His Opinion

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—The democratic party will conduct its presidential campaign without regard to group interests, Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the democratic national committee, declared today. Mr. Cummings has been directing a meeting of the committee on arrangements for the San Francisco convention, so stated when asked whether the party intended to undertake any propaganda to overcome the reported defection of certain Irish and other elements opposed to ratification of the peace treaty in its present form.

"We are going to consider the treaty and other issues as Americans," he said. "I am opposed to considering this question in any other way. Personally, I believe racial objections to the peace treaty are more noise than anything else."

Mr. Cummings pointed to the fact that the national committee had indorsed the peace treaty as submitted by the president and was standing pat on that issue. Those who believed that the treaty was inimical to the political aspirations of the Irish people were, he said, wrong.

Chairman Cummings then announced that so many mis-statements had been made as to the democratic campaign for funds that he would issue a formal statement soon.

The only business transacted by the committee on arrangements today was appointment of six sub-committees to handle various phases of the convention plans. No other meeting of the full committee is expected until about June 1.

Women were represented on the committee of arrangements today for the first time, according to party leaders by Mrs. George Bass of Chicago, chairman of the women's bureau of the national committee, and Miss Mary E. Foy of Los Angeles.

The committee agreed to provide hotel room free of charge to members of the national committee and associate members while at the convention, but they will be required to pay for their meals and railroad transportation.

Robert H. Elder of Idaho, is named a member of the sub-committee on hotels and entertainment and J. Bruce Kremer, Mont., a member of two sub-committees on tickets and badges and personnel.

When the house naval committee asked for complaints he had made, Admiral Sims said he received a cablegram from Admiral Benson, chief of operations, telling him that "strong positive statements" were highly desirable. Knowing that his reply must become public information and that any criticism therein would give aid and encouragement to the enemy, Admiral Sims said he framed an answer on the basis that those at the front must take what those at home send.

Recapitulating his criticisms, Admiral Sims said "Admiral Benson had described interference with the commander in the field or afloat as 'one of the most common temptations to the government.'"

"The navy department," he added, "did not resist this temptation and its frequent violation of this principle was the most dangerous error committed during the war."

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POST OFFICERS SEATED

Grand Army Veterans Hold Installation at Corvallis

CORVALLIS, Or., Jan. 17.—(Special.)—Hillworth post No. 19 and the Woman's Relief corps held their joint installation in the Oddfellows hall this afternoon. Thirty persons came over from Albany to help celebrate the occasion, among them, Comrade G. F. Sox, past commander of McPherson post, who acted as installing officer for the G. A. R.

After a banquet and the installation ceremonies, Comrades Sox, Walker and Small of Albany and Newton and Baker of Corvallis, were called upon for short talks. The women were represented in after dinner oratory by Mrs. Jennie Curry, Mrs. Nellie Perry and Mrs. Jennie Small of Albany, and Mrs. Mary E. Watts and Mrs. Lizzie Astell of Corvallis.

JUNK COLLECTOR JAILED

North Bend Resident Held for Mental Examination

NORTH BEND, Or., Jan. 17.—(Special.)—Possessed of an uncontrollable mania for collecting old articles from garbage piles about the city, believing them to be of great value, Sam Miller, 55 years of age, was lodged in the city jail here pending a mental examination. Miller, who was formerly engaged in the junk business in Oklahoma, came here a short time ago and rented a small cabin near the business district.

His mania for discarded articles from junk heaps caused him to work long hours daily collecting quantities of old tin cans, bottles, barrels, and other worthless articles, which he piled around his cabin until the accumulation became a veritable barricade.

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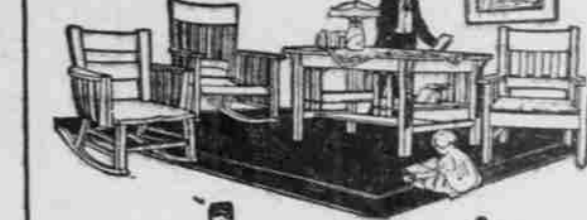
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—You can have either white or ivory enamel. All pieces are identical with illustration. For your examination this settee, also, has been arranged in the fifth-street window. If you don't see it entire—select any piece or pieces.

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