

**PREPAREDNESS CALL
OF NATION IS HEEDED
BY 64TH CONGRESS**

Programs for Larger Navy
and Army Notable Achievements of Two Sessions.

PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM

Ship Purchase Bill, Farm Loan Act,
Adamson Law and Child Labor Bill
Among Most Important Measures.

Washington, March 2.—(U. S. S.)—The sixty-fourth congress, which tomorrow passes into the annals of things that were, will be long remembered as the congress which responded to the demand for national preparedness. While economic statutes of pith and moment have been written into the law of the land, preparedness measures, inspired by the European war, out-top all other legislation.

Although ample provision has been made for fortifications, and authority has been granted by congress to more than double the standing army of the country, the metamorphosis of the United States from a commercial to a fighting nation has been wrought by the naval increases authorized. Content for years to be a doubtful third or even a fourth naval power, the congress now expiring has authorized naval armaments destined to make Uncle Sam eventually the peer of any nation on earth in sea power, excepting, perhaps, Great Britain.

118 War Craft Authorized.

In the two sessions comprising the sixty-fourth congress there have been authorized and appropriated for no less than 118 war craft. Nor is this all. The first session adopted a three-year-building program, the construction of which should be undertaken prior to July 1, 1918. This program included this allotment of fighting ships: Ten battleships, six battle cruisers, ten scout cruisers, fifty torpedo boat destroyers, nine fleet submarines, fifty-eight coast submarines, one experimental submarine (New system), three fuel ships, one repair ship, one transport, one hospital ship, two destroyer tenders, one fleet submarine tender, two ammunition ships, two gunboats.

By the act which adopted this building program congress appropriated for four battleships, four battle cruisers, four scout cruisers, twenty destroyers, thirty submarines, and one each of these craft: Experimental submarine, fuel ship, hospital ship, ammunition ship and gunboat. During the second session provision was made for three battleships, one battle cruiser, three scout cruisers, fifteen destroyers, one destroyer tender, one submarine tender and eighteen submarines.

If the sixty-fifth congress adopts the three-year program the remainder of the units for the reorganized battle fleet will be appropriated for next year. Staggering sums have been required to meet these demands, the naval appropriation for the second session of the expiring congress alone amounting to almost a round half billion dollars.

Increases to the regular army and its reorganization under the national defense act were less striking than the naval increases. But the regular army was increased from an authorized peace strength of 100,000 to an authorized peace strength of 216,000, capable of expansion in war time to 250,000. After prolonged agitation for preparedness both on land and sea, the consensus of the military experts was that the United States with its enormous length of coast line must ever rely on its fleet to defend its shores.

Notable Legislation Enacted.

Although preparedness has been the keynote of legislation, the sixty-fourth congress has found time also to enact a ship purchase bill, the Adamson eight-hour railroad law, a child labor law, a measure to forbid the immigration of illiterate aliens, a rural credits bill, a vocational educational bill and an act reorganizing the government of Porto Rico and extending citizenship to the islanders.

The ship purchase bill established a government shipping board to supervise shipping matters generally. It appropriated \$10,000,000 to be obtained from the sale of Panama canal bonds for the purchase or construction of ships to be leased to private individuals in an effort to restore the American merchant marine.

The Adamson eight-hour railroad law was enacted on the eve of adjournment of the first session of the closing congress. Some persons fix the date as the eve of election. The enactment of the measure prevented a nation-wide railroad strike. It, however, has never become effective. Between the time of its enactment and the time for the commencement of its operation, January 1 last, the constitutionality of the measure was challenged by the railroads, and the whole matter is now pending in the supreme court.

Supplemental railroad legislation, proposed by President Wilson in his annual message last December, failed of enactment. This legislation would have provided for the prevention of strikes by compulsory legislation. It was heartily opposed by all of the bodies of organized labor which had previously sought the eight-hour railroad law.

Child Labor Law Enacted.

The child labor law barred from interstate commerce all products of children under 18 years of age in mines or of children under 14 in factories.

The passage of the immigration bill with its literacy test was accomplished over President Wilson's second veto. The literacy feature had been a subject of controversy between the executive and legislative branches of the government for the past 20 years. Presidents Taft and Cleveland both vetoed immigration measures because they carried the literacy feature, which all three Presidents thought was not a proper measure of the fitness of aliens to admission to the United States.

The federal farm loan act, commonly called the rural credits bill, created twelve federal land banks with \$750,000 capital each. The bill provides a system whereby loans may be made to farmers for productive purposes through national farm loan associations. It will meet more particularly the needs of agriculturists in the west and south.

Under the vocational educational act the federal government on a gradually increasing scale covers every state appropriation dollar for dollar for secondary school instruction in agriculture and the mechanical and industrial arts.

Brazil to Buy Ships.

Rio de Janeiro, March 2.—The government of Brazil is negotiating for the purchase of the 20 or more German steamers interned in this harbor, Santos, Bahia and Pernambuco.

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of the Screen—in her
dramatic triumph—
her artistic—beautiful
—appealing presentation
of Panthea—



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Panthea — a feature of
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plus the play and player
we offer Columbia service
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of comfort and
convenience that completes
your enjoyment.
We request your early
attendance.
Jensen & Von Herberg,
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PANTHEA

The lavish screen adaptation of Monckton Hoffe's great play--The story of a love that was greater than life or death--Opinions will differ as to the moral aspect of the sacrifice made by the heroine of this pulsing play--but there can be but one conclusion as to the story's power to arrest attention--to hold the most blase picture patron spell-bound to the end--

It shows at the theatre of big events--the

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Living Models
displaying the
newest and niftiest
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Gowns courtesy
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