



NEW ORDER A BLOW TO SHIPIARDS

Stoppage of Work on Steel
Ships Which Cannot Be Fin-
ished in 6 Months Commanded

Twenty-eight Hulls, Valued at
\$38,000,000, Are Affected by
the New Government Order.

ORDERS from the Emergency Fleet corporation ordering the stoppage of work on all steel ships that cannot be completed within six months were received here late Saturday night by ship-builders, who today expressed opinions that unless the order is modified, a great blow will be struck at the industry of the Pacific coast.

Chamber of Commerce officials held a session at noon today, planning to take some action on the situation caused by the withdrawal of government shipbuilding contracts. It was decided to withhold definite action until detailed accounts of the whole situation could be obtained. The chamber has wired to Washington, D. C., for a complete outline of the whole matter. Secretary Dodson admitted that the ruling had its serious aspects for Portland as well as other points in the Northwest where steel shipbuilding has been in progress.

Up to the noon hour today, the local headquarters of the Emergency Fleet corporation had received no word concerning the government orders amounting to \$100,000,000. District Manager F. B. Pape could give no further information than that he could gather from the orders received from local shipbuilding heads. The orders received by the Portland firms were sent out by headquarters at Seattle.

The interpretation of the order is that so far as the Portland district is concerned all government contracts for steel shipbuilding for the future are virtually cancelled.

Whether this order will be modified awaits further word from the shipping board. As it stands now the building of 28 steel steamers, involving \$38,000,000 in contracts, is subject to the change. It will also mean that thousands of men will have to seek new work in the next few months, ship-builders asserted.

In the steel plants in the Portland district view the situation which has arisen out of the suspension of the building of steel ships in the Pacific Northwest for the government as particularly dark, after having a few hours to review the situation since receiving orders to this effect.

The clouds of the impending order were not to be overlooked, in light of the fact that as yet the O. M. Standifer Construction Corporation yards at Vancouver had not received orders to suspend any work, probably the only exception among Oregon and Washington steel ship-builders.

The ships of the Portland district af-

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ALBERS JURY MAY BE PICKED TODAY

Eight Talismen Were Tentatively Selected at the Session of Federal Court Saturday.

Work of selecting the jury to try Albers, formerly head of the Albers Brothers' lumber company, was resumed in federal court at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Eight jurors were chosen tentatively Saturday, but all these are subject to peremptory challenge from both prosecution and defense. Albers, who is charged on seven counts in an indictment with violation of the espionage law, by uttering remarks upholding the cause of Germany and attacking the United States, is defended by Henry E. McGinn, John McCourt and R. Clinton, while United States Attorney Haney and Assistant Attorney B. H. Goldstein are handling the prosecution.

Counsel for both sides expressed doubt this morning whether the jury should be selected by this evening.

Some of the utterances complained of were alluded to in briefs made Oct. 10 when Albers was en route to Portland on a Southern Pacific train, in the presence of F. B. Tichenor, a deputy United States marshal, and others.

Albers is a German by birth and education and it is admitted by counsel for the defense that he came to the United States from Germany into the world war he was strongly pro-German in thought and expression. It is asserted, however, that he has been loyal subsequent to that time.

Match Shortage in France; Fires Kept

Paris, Jan. 27.—(By Mail)—(I. N. S.)—There is a match shortage in France. In some towns it is so acute that fires are kept burning continually in order that people may obtain firebrands. Usually disabled soldiers are placed in charge of these braziers and they have received official title of "Fire Keepers." They are paid by the towns employing them.

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