

AMERICA'S FLEET FULLY ADEQUATE, DECLARES BENSON

(By United News)
New York, Dec. 22.—"No criticism can destroy the fleet we now possess."

This was Admiral W. S. Benson's answer, Tuesday night, as chairman of the United States shipping board, to the great volume of criticism that has been leveled at the board in recent weeks.

In a speech to the Municipal club of Brooklyn, he argued that the good that has been done in the name of the board will forever outweigh such shortcomings as have been discovered.

CRITICISM "LOOSE"
"If through some world menace," he said, "the governments of this earth should be thrown into another gigantic struggle, we of America should proclaim to the world that we are now ship independent. And our ships, properly manned, as they are, can solve any transportation problem overseas that would result from any such world menace."

"There has been so much loose talk relative to large sums of money spent that many well meaning persons have been led to believe that this money of the government was spent without thought of return and without an effort to control. I do not believe anyone will deny that we have physical possession of the largest single fleet of merchantmen in the history of the world. The direct result of this expenditure of \$3,000,000,000, this fleet has been profit-

ably employed in the development of our foreign trade.

"The fact that we had a fleet of splendid seagoing vessels stabilized ocean freight rates at a time when they were soaring to heights almost unbelievable. For the first time in 40 years America has a delivery system overseas sailing under the American flag."

"This fleet earned in gross revenue since it began its operations more than \$1,000,000,000. This billion stayed in this country. You gentlemen must not forget that had there been no nation able to take up the position Germany occupied when her marine power was literally wiped out, ocean carrying tonnage would have been monopolized by Great Britain, whose crying trade needs naturally would have come first."

If Farmer Had Two Wives All Troubles Would End, He Says

Denver, Dec. 22.—(I. N. S.)—All the problems confronting the farmers of Colorado will be readily solved if legislation is enacted permitting farmers to have two wives, according to George Smith, a farmer living seven miles south of Denver.

In a letter to Governor Shoup, made public today, Smith urges the executive to stand sponsor for a law that will give the "city man one wife and the farmer two wives."

"You would be a greater man than Lincoln if you would have such a law passed," Smith wrote. "On the farm one wife could help the other and a farmer could more surely raise boys to work the farm and not need to hire help. And many boys would leave the cities to live on farms so they could have two wives."

Exra Meeker Near 90 Years

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 22.—Exra Meeker spent Monday visiting friends in Olympia. He is preparing to celebrate his ninety-third birthday on December 27 at a family reunion in Seattle.

Apple Shipments By Mail Take All Postage at Dee

Dee, Or., Dec. 22.—About 1000 boxes of Hood River valley apples have gone from this place by parcel post. Numbers of times the stamp supply was exhausted. A box of apples weighs from 40 to 45 pounds, so that when sending into the Eighth zone the postage was in the neighborhood of \$5.

Former Food Head Of Washington Is In Divorce Court

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 22.—Superior Court Judge Blake overruled a demurrer submitted by Charles P. Lund, counsel for Charles Hebbard, whose wife, Mrs. Alice Hebbard, has instituted divorce proceedings. The demurrer was formal and was not argued. Hebbard is Republican state chairman and former food administrator for the state of Washington.

Five hundred dollars a month alimony during the pendency of the suit, suitable temporary attorney's fees, and the custody of their 10-year-old daughter are asked by Mrs. Hebbard. Hebbard is a prominent clubman here and a conspicuous figure in state and national political circles. Mrs. Hebbard in her interrogatories asks her husband to tell the court how much stock he owns in Tull & Gibbs, his salary, number and amount of stocks and bonds, and what moneys he has in banks and trust companies. She declares his salary is more than \$1000 a month and that the community property includes a home at 428 West Eighteenth avenue, valued at \$10,000, and a cottage and grounds at Hayden lake valued at \$3000. Mrs. Hebbard is also of the be-

lief that her husband owns half or more of the stock of Tull & Gibbs.

"The Hebbards' domestic life has been unhappy for several years due to the fact that 'home life has become irksome to him,' she charges.

Mrs. Jennie Florey Wins Divorce; Keeps Two Minor Children

Albany, Dec. 22.—Mrs. Jennie Florey Monday was granted a divorce from Chauncey Florey, county clerk of Jackson county, whom she charged with cruelty and desertion. They were married at Medford in 1909.

Mrs. Florey testified that her husband began to grow cold toward her several years ago, and gradually their relations became more strained until finally he invited her to leave. Later he inflicted abuses upon her and refused to live with her, although they remained under the same roof, it was said. It was after he had attacked her and then threatened her life that she left him, she said.

The case was not contested. Florey is to provide his former wife and children with \$80 a month and with a \$2240 home. Mrs. Florey was given the care of her two minor children.

Two Linn Teachers Receive Discharges

Albany, Dec. 22.—Donald G. Gale, instructor in manual training at the Albany high school, and Miss Irma Goulard of the Brownsville schools have been dismissed by County Superintendent Ida M. Cummings because the former failed to attend the teachers' institute here last month and in the latter case because she failed to file her certificate or to take the teachers' examination that might qualify her.

When we get accustomed to paper clothing, it may be all right to refer to an evening dress as the quire invisible.

Salem Farmer Hurt When Train Strikes His Car at Crossing

Salem, Dec. 22.—Fred Stark, 63, a farmer living on route 7, Salem, suffered severe cuts about the face and body when a southbound Southern Pacific passenger train struck his automobile at Court and Twelfth streets at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Stark was driving down Twelfth street with the train and is said to have swung in just ahead of the locomotive in an attempt to cross ahead. Witnesses say that Stark was thrown through the windshield of his car.

Railroad Earnings For October Give \$115,556,424 Profit

Washington, Dec. 22.—(I. N. S.)—Railroad operating revenues in October amounted to \$642,135,312 and operating expenses were \$526,578,888, leaving a net revenue of \$115,556,424, the interstate commerce commission announced this afternoon. The net revenue for the month showed an increase of \$12,000,000 over the same month of last year.

Scottsburg Robbery Is Laid to Wagner

Roseburg, Dec. 22.—The killing of Frank Wagner and the discovery of \$6000 worth of Liberty bonds belonging to John Hedden of Scottsburg, is the latest proof that Wagner robbed the

store and postoffice at Scottsburg on the night of October 21. Wagner was traced to Reedsport after his escape from the state penitentiary, and from

there he disappeared. The work of blowing the safe was identified as that of Wagner, and the loot taken amounted to \$25,000, most of which was in

Liberty bonds. Several thousand dollars' worth of these bonds were found hidden in a hay loft in a barn below Scottsburg a short time ago.



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for perfect quality, all-wool shirts in vicuna, oxford and light gray, khaki, olive drab and some fancy checks and stripes. Sizes 14 to 18½ in one or the other. Military, flat and button-down collars.

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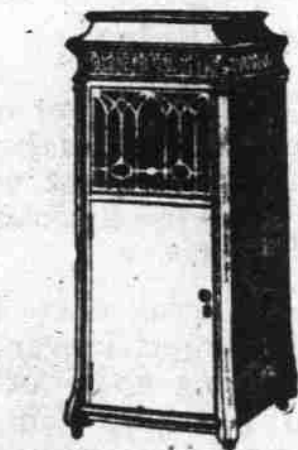
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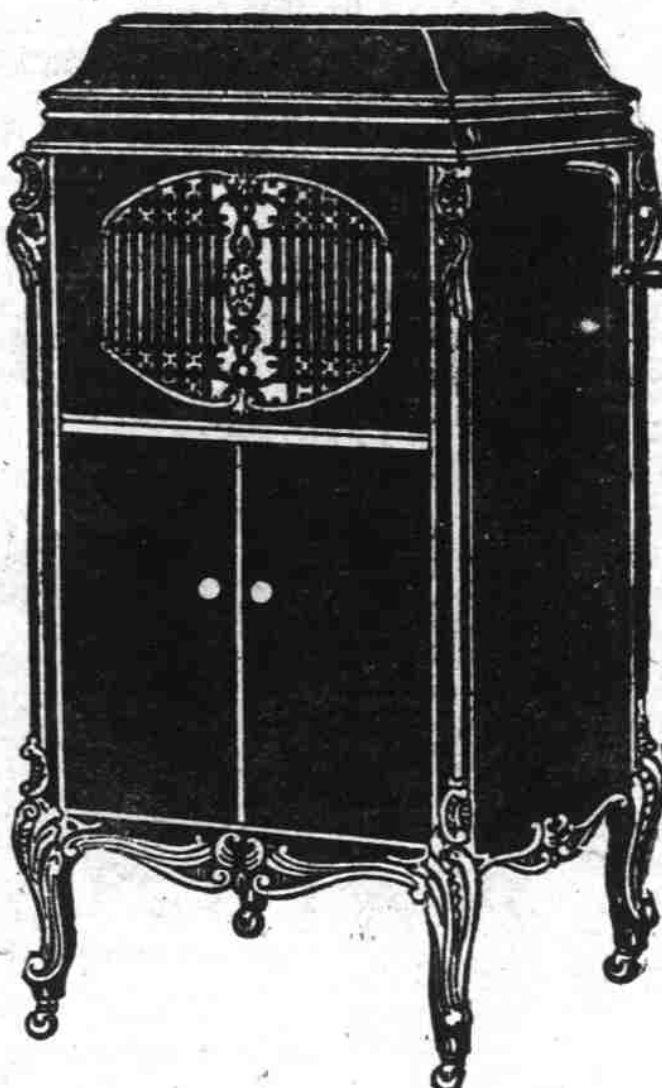
Open Evenings Until Christmas

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Above Edison type \$295 on easy terms



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olde tyme hath putte forth muche
godde cheere at ye Holiday Season,
biddes ye gentilman to donne ye beste
doublet and buskins, and ye ladye ye
moste stunnynge gowne, and come to
Ye Bountifull Christmas Dinner
whyche wille be served to alle who
comme on that daye.

Ye candles wille be lighted from
1 to 9 of ye clock, so that manye scores
of ye gentiltolk maye feast muche and
make merie.

Ye musicians wille cause ye
spinet and ye other stringed instru-
ments to make yofulle sowndes, so that
in ye evening ye dancers maye caper
upon ye flore.

Light shillyngees wille be ye price
of ye entertainment, to be y-paid to ye
Keeper of ye Inn.