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## NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

### LARGER WARSHIPS NEEDED.

Question of Heavier Armor or Heavier Guns is Not Settled.

Washington—Plans for bigger battleships with heavier armor will be presented to congress during the forthcoming session by Secretary of the Navy Meyer when the question of the building program is taken up for consideration.

Naval experts have practically agreed that the new type of ship, of which congress will be asked to authorize the building of two, will be larger and heavier than the 27,000-ton ships now under construction. The tonnage limit will be increased to at least 28,000 and probably 29,000 when the plans are matured.

The naval general board has not yet absolutely decided whether the increase in weight shall be devoted to more guns or heavier armor, but the prevailing opinion seems to favor heavier armor.

In case of the latter the new ships will have only 10 guns, but these will be 14-inch type, which has but recently been developed by the ordnance department of the navy. With the heavier armor the ship will be able to come into closer battle range, thereby increasing their effectiveness.

The building program will probably include torpedo destroyers, and one additional ship, either an ammunition, repair, supply or hospital ship. An important change in the building plans as outlined in the tentative program will be enlargement of the destroyers to 1,000 tons. The largest now afloat in the United States navy are 750 tons.

This means that the larger greyhounds of the navy, the scout destroyers, will become an obsolete class.

### WILSON SENT TO TOMBS.

President of United Wireless Refuses to Give Up Letter Press.

New York—Colonel Christopher Wilson, president of the United Wireless Telegraph company, was sent to the Tombs by Judge Lacombe, of the United States District court, on a presentation of the Federal grand jury, for contempt of court in refusing to surrender to the court a letter press book, which the board of directors had been subpoenaed to produce.

Certain officers of the company are charged with fraudulently using the mails in furtherance of an alleged scheme to defraud investors.

Wilson's counsel applied to Judge Cox, in the United States Circuit court, for a writ of habeas corpus. Judge Cox granted the writ and fixed the bail at \$100.

Later Wilson was brought to the Federal building, where his bail bond was signed and he was released.

### PEARY RETURNS TO DUTY.

Polar Explorer Assigned, But Not to Work He Preferred.

Washington—Captain R. E. Peary the Arctic explorer, returns to active duty in the Navy department on November 9, as engineer expert for the department of justice in cases before the Court of Claims involving construction work for the naval bureau of yards and docks.

This work was the explorer's choice among several positions offered. Peary would have preferred, it is said, to have been assigned to duty at the naval library to write of his travels in the frozen North.

The explorer has been on leave of absence from the department about ten years, during which time he has been engaged in Arctic exploration. Recently he was promoted to the rank of captain as the result of the death of a senior officer. A bill is now pending in congress to make Peary a rear admiral as a mark of recognition for his polar exploits.

### TOLL IN HUMAN LIFE HEAVY.

Railroads Killed 3,804, Injured 82,374 During 12 Months.

Washington—Killed, 3,804; injured, 82,374.

This is the casualty record of the railroads in the United States during the year ended June 30 last, according to the Interstate Commerce commission. It is an increase of 1,013 in the number killed and 18,454 in the number injured over the previous year's figures.

There were 5,861 collisions, killing 433 persons and injuring 7,765 and damaging railroad property \$4,629,279. In the year there were 5,910 derailments, 340 persons were killed and 4,814 injured. During the last three months of the year the total injured was 20,650.

### Commission Controls Private Cars.

Washington—Asserting that any other construction would nullify the law, the Interstate Commerce commission reaffirmed its right to exercise jurisdiction over private cars when used for the conveyance of amusement outfits, theatrical companies and the like.

### UNION READY TO SEIZE HIM.

Honduras Under Martial Law, United States to Act.

Washington—Martial law has been declared in Honduras as a direct result of the revolt of General Jose Valladares, the deposed commandant of Amapala, against the government, according to cable advices to the State department from Minister McCreery, at Tegucigalpa. The port of Amapala has been closed and the island is in a state of siege.

The United States gunboat Princeton is in the harbor at Amapala ready to take a hand in the revolution at the first sign of hostility towards foreigners or their interests. President Davila is preparing to send an armed force against Valladares, and in the event of the government's failure to restore order on the island the United States probably will be asked to interfere.

It would not be surprising if Commander Hayes, of the Princeton, acting under instructions from the State department, should send an armed force ashore at any time to take Valladares into custody. However, department officials refuse to discuss the probability of this beyond asserting that American interests will be safeguarded.

### NAVY TO TRIM EXPENSE.

Taft and Meyer Plan Concentration at Large Yards on Coast.

Washington—Sweeping reforms in the Navy department looking toward an economy of several million dollars are said to be included in a plan which Secretary Meyer is reported to be preparing for presentation to President Taft on the secretary's return from the inspection trip upon which he is now engaged.

The abolition of construction corps and the pay corps and later, perhaps, the abandonment of some of the navy yards on the Atlantic Coast, are predicted if the plan is carried out.

The concentration of the work of the navy at a few of the largest navy yards—those at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk and San Francisco—with a view toward suspending operations at Portsmouth, N. H., and Charleston, S. C., is causing much speculation, though it is believed nothing definite has been decided in the matter beyond the plan to merge some of them for the sake of economy.

### Cost of Feeding Canal Army.

Washington—Feeding the army of Panama canal builders is a matter of tremendous expense, and to keep tab on the money the government makes a record of wonderful detail that shows the cost per meal per man. It is shown by the annual report of the Isthmian canal commission that there are in operation 19 hotels, 19 European laborers' messes and 20 common laborers' kitchens.

The total number of meals served at commission hotels was 2,176,451. The cost of supplies was 24.87 cents, and the expense 6.23 cents a meal, a total of a little over 31 cents.

The meals served in the European laborers' messes made a total of 1,092,487, which cost 36.84 cents each for supplies and expenses. The meals in the common laborers' kitchen totaled 781,746, and cost 27.09 cents each. The average daily attendance during June in the line hotels was 1,915, in messes 3,178, and in kitchens 1,496.

The average weight of the ration supplied each person daily in the laborers' kitchens was found to be approximately 4.41 pounds, with a value of 22.26 cents. It is a coincidence that the net weight of the ration furnished the European laborer is exactly equal to the gross weight of the United States army garrison, and the net weight of the ration furnished the negro laborer is exactly equal to the gross weight of the United States army field ration.

### Peso Maker to Be Freed.

Managua, Nic.—Provisional President Estrada has sent a telegraphic message to Senor Arrellano, representative of the provisional government at Washington, instructing him to request the release by the American government of H. N. Secrest, who was arrested a short time ago in Chicago in connection with printing of counterfeit Nicaraguan five-peso notes.

It is explained that Secrest acted under orders of the revolutionary leader. The orders were issued prior to the retirement of Madriz and were subsequently cancelled. Information of the cancellation probably was received by Secrest too late to prevent his coming into conflict with the authorities.

### Torpedo-Boat Destroyer Fast.

Rockland, Me.—A knot slower than the record of her sister ship, the Drayton, but faster than either of the oil-burning torpedo boat destroyers, the Starrett obtained a top speed of 32.333 knots an hour in a standardization test. The Starrett's turbines generated about 15,000 horse power. Her average speed for the five runs made was 31.653 knots an hour.

### SOCIETY AIDS STRIKERS.

Police Arrest Alleged Rioters, But Make Bad Mistake.

Chicago—Well known club and society women dumbfounded the police department through interference in the strike of the garment workers. Mounted police had charged threatening mobs of strikers and made numerous arrests in three sections of the city, only to be completely nonplussed when met by obdurate groups of the elite of Chicago's women who produced engraved calling cards at police stations in lieu of bailbonds.

It was a new experience for the police and plainly confused them. A score of these women champions of the garment workers, who faced the rioting, were taken into custody. They were immediately released, however, when their identity became known to the police.

One of them was injured when struck by a policeman's club, but her name did not become known, as she was hurriedly placed in an automobile and taken to her home.

Most of the women of prominence involved in the demonstrations were garbed as working girls, and for this reason the police could not distinguish them from strikers until after arrests had been made.

"I will take oath that we were doing absolutely nothing beyond the law,"



MISS MARY IDELL IDE  
Of Colville, Washington, who will be Queen of the National Apple Show at Spokane, Nov. 14 to 19.

said Miss Ellen Varer, one of the club women who has become a strike picket. "The only persons who were violating the law were the policemen, who treated us roughly and hurt dreadfully with their clubs some of the poor boys who were walking peacefully past the shops. If there had been a real riot it would have been incited altogether by the police."

### SEVEN SHANGHAI BANKS FAIL.

Change of Taotais Causes Panic, Paralyzing Industry.

Victoria, B. C.—Seven banks in Shanghai, including several large ones, have failed, and a financial panic has resulted. The steamship Titan, which brought this news, left Yokohama October 15. Following the failure of the banks, the Chinese chamber of commerce telegraphed to the prince regent that unless aid was given at once many manufactures would cease operations and over 300,000 men would be made idle. The prince regent telegraphed 700,000 taels, and is being urged to send \$5,000,000 more.

One of the closed banks has liabilities of 20,000,000 taels and has 22 branches throughout the empire. It has on deposit \$4,000,000 of customs revenue and \$3,000,000 of Shanghai funds, none of which is secured. Japanese bankers state that among the failed banks are three of China's largest.

### Finest Apple Show Opens.

Vancouver, B. C.—Without doubt the first Canadian Apple show, opened here Nov. 1, is the best in point of arrangement, size and amount of premiums offered, of any ever held anywhere. Lieutenant Governor Patterson made the formal opening address, while Attorney General Bowers and Premier McBride, of British Columbia, and Mayor Taylor, of Vancouver, gave the ceremonies added dignity. The show has 3,424 exhibits, including 194 varieties of apples and representing 287 exhibitors.

### Indians Offered Bribes.

Guthrie, Okla.—A. J. Johnson and George Kispketon, two Indian interpreters, who are important witnesses for the government in the hearing to extradite to Mexico five men wanted there for alleged Kiekapoo land frauds, testified that they had been offered \$500 each to "stay by" the defendants. They said they had already been paid small amounts by two of the defendants and that they had turned over the money to the prosecutor.

### France Births Gaining.

Paris—During the first half of the year 1910, it is officially announced, the births in France exceeded the deaths by 21,189. During the year 1909 the deaths exceeded the births by 28,203.