NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WANT TWO MORE BIG SHIPS.

Naval Officers Expect Appropriation for 20,000-Ton Battleships.

Washington, Nov. 1.—It is the opinion of naval officers generaly that congress, at the coming session, should provide for two new 20,000-ton battleship, to be companion ships to those recently placed under contract. Navy men believe it is a good idea to build up the naval force in units of four ships each, each ship of the unit to be identical with the other three. If this policy could be adopted, the navy could be enlarged more rapidly than if the plans are continually changed. For instance, if the necessary appropriations could be obtained for two ships of this type, contracts could be let for them not later than the first of next August, and they would follow along less than a year behind the ships recently contracted for.

If there should be any radical change in shipbuilding before the next contracts could be awarded, the officers concede that the government would be justified in modifying its plans. For the present these officers are content with 20,000-ton battleships, and are not favorable to the immediate construction of ships of 22,500 or 25,000 tons, unless congress should see fit to appropriate for more than two battleships at the approaching session, and no one looks for any such abnormal appropriations at this time. If congress authorizes two new battleships in the next naval appropriation bill it will be doing more than many friends of the navy expect. There is a general feeling that congress will rather be inclined to hold down naval appropriation, and authorize one rather than two battleships.

Trails in Rainier Forest.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Supervisor G. F. Allen, of the Rainier National forest, Washington, has just been authorized to expend $1,750 for the construction of trails, cabins and pastures in his forest. The money is now available and the work will be begun at once. The greater part of the amount authorized will be used for building a fine trail system which will increase the effectiveness of the ranger force in all lines of work. Lack of trails in the Rainier forest has heretofore caused the loss of considerable time to forest officers traveling between important points.

Conditions Scare Officers.

Washington, Oct. 31.—So serious are conditions in the army that as soon as congress convenes it will be asked to correct wrongs that menace the entire organization. The facts were admitted today at the War department. Desertions are on the increase; the standard of recruits far too low; pay is too small; there is too much promotion by favoritism; enthusiasm is lacking; fear of tropical service is general and the absence of the canteen has led to drunkenness and disgrace. These statements are made in officers' reports.

Will Settle Quarrel.

Washington, Oct. 30. — Secretary Taft, who has left Manila to visit Subig bay, goes to endeavor to reconcile a difference of opinion between the army and navy respecting the continuance of expenditures on a large scale for the fortification of that place. Several years ago a naval board decided that Subig bay should be the main naval base. Recently, however, the army engineers have decided thatt Subig bay is practically indefensible.

Railroads Aid Favorites.

Washington, Nov. 2.—In a complaint filed before the Interstate Commerce commission 223 railroads and transportation companies are made defendants by the wholesale drygoods dealers of Wichita. The complaints allege discrimination against Wichita in favor of Topeka and Kansas City in shipments from the Atlantic seaboard.

Pensioners in the Northwest.

Washington, Oct. 30.—The annual report of the commissioner of pensions shows that on June 30, 1907, there were 7,798 pensioners in Oregon drawing annual pensions aggregating $1,021 545. In Washington there were 10,393 pensioners, drawing $1,352,634; in Idaho, 2,205, drawing $292,296, and in Alaska 68, drawing $9,699.

Oklahoma as a State.

Washington, Oct. 31. — President Roosevelt will proclaim Oklahoma a state on Saturday, November 16. The president made this announcement today to Governor Frantz, who brought to Washington a certified copy of the new constitution.

Oregon Railway Mail-Clerks.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Melton Vernon, of Portland; Ralph W. Knott, of Albany; J. C. Cooper, Thomas E. Thompson, A. R. Leta and F. E. Scoville, of Portland, are appointed railway mail clerks.

Government Buys Silver.

Washington, Nov. 1.—The Treasury department today purchased 200,000 ounces of silver at 60.941 cents per fine ounce, 100,000 ounces to be delivered at New Orleans and 100,000 ounces in San Francisco.

New Rural Crriers Named.

Washington, Oct. 31.—W. E. Child has been appointed regular, Sherman Lyon substitute rural carrier, route 2, at Barton, Oregon.

Rural Carrier at Sunset.

Washington, Nov. 2.—David M. McCance has been appointed regular, and George Mills substitute, rural carrier, route 1, at Sunset, Wash.

SMELTER TRUST NEXT.

Prosecution Will Follow Completion of Tobacco Case.

Washington, Oct. 30.—If the government is successful in its seizure of 8,750,000 cigarettes from the tobacco trust at Norfolk, Virginia, under the Sherman anti-trust law, one of its next proceedings will be against the Guggenheim smelter trust, of which the Federal Mining & Smelting company, operating in Washington and Idaho, is a constituent. Charles Sweeney, of Spokane, one of the directors of the Federal company, is heavily interested in Portland realty.

When questioned regarding the government's action relative to other trusts, if successful against the tobacco corporation, a responsible official in the department of justice replied:

"The government will not be limited with reference to any other trust."

"What about the Standard Oil and the smelter trust?"

"The government will not be limited with reference to any other trust," the official reiterated.

An investigation has been going on into the smelter trust for many months. The government has a mass of evidence. If it proceeds against the smelter trust and the Federal company it will seize all interstate cars controlled by the Guggenheims in all their constituent companies.

ARE GOING BEYOND.

Civil War Pensioners Decrease Rapidly During 1907.

Washington, Oct. 29.—The decrease of 18,600 in the number of pensioners on the rolls at the end of the fiscal year 1907, as compared with the year previous, is the feature of the annual report of Pension Commissioner Warner just issued. This is the greatest decrease in the history of the pension bureau.

The total number of pensioners June 30, 1907, was 967,371, and the total value of the pension roll at that date was $140,850,880. This is greater by $4,613,131 than the value of the roll for the year previous and is accounted for by the higher rates of pensions provided for by the act of February, 1907, under which act there had been enrolled June 30 of the present year 116,239 pensioners.

The total number of pensioners on the roll on account of the war with Spain was 24,077.

Army Activity in Philippines.

Washington, Oct. 29.—There are strong surface indications that important military developments are looked for in the Philippine islands in the near future. Chief among the things pointing to that conclusion is the fact that Major General Leonard Wood, commanding that military division, and Brigadier General Tasker H. Bliss, commanding the department of Mindanao, have asked for further service in the archipelago. General Wood will start for the United States next month by way of Europe to take command of the department of the east at New York. After a brief stay in the United States, General Wood plans to return to the islands and resume command. General Bliss also has asked that he be continued in command of the Philippines for another two years, following his present term of service in the islands.

Utes Growing Restive.

Washington, Oct. 31.—The tribe of Ute Indians which more than a year ago wandered away from its reservation on in Utah and threatened trouble in Colorado and Wyoming by threatening to take the warpath and raid ranches, is reported to have again broken out on the Cheyenne River reservation, in South Dakota, where the tribe was given temporary quarters. At the request of the secretary of the interior, the War department today ordered troops from Fort Meade to the scene of the trouble.

Millions Are Divorced.

Washington, Oct. 31.—An aggregate of 1,300,000 divorce cases during the past 20 years will be shown by a report being prepared at the census bureau. A total of 2,900 clerks and special agents have been at work for months gathering this data, and about 140 are still engaged in the task. There are about 40,000 cases to be investigated out of the number stated before the field work is finished and the work of compilation proper can begin.

Roosevelt 49 Years Old.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Sunday was President Roosevelt's 49th birthday. No celebration marked the event. He did not depart from his customary Sunday program of worship, work and recreation. The day was spent at the White House fireside in a quiet family rejoicing. Congratulations in large numbers by mail, telegraph and telephone were received at the White House during the day.

More Government Forest.

Washington, Oct. 31.—The president has ordered the withdrawal of 34,965 acres of land in Trinity, Shasta and Glenn counties, California, along the eastern border of the Trinity national forest, and it is proposed to add this acreage to the forest.

Special Land-Grant Lawyer.

Washington, Oct. 30.—It is announced that Tracy C. Becker, an attorney of Buffalo, will be appointed special assistant attorney general to review the Southern Pacific land grant cases in California and Oregon.

ROADS HIT BACK

Refuse Lumber Shipments Until Further Notice

Bellingham, Wash., Nov. 1.—No more lumber shipments will be received by the Northern Pacific railroad in the Northwest until further notice. This is the order sent out to all agents of the company last night.

This move of the Northern Pacific is expected to be followed by all the railroads affected by the injunction issued by the Federal court in Seattle Thursday night, making it compulsory on the part of the railroads to charge the old rate of 40 cents on lumber from terminal points on the Pacific Coast. The railroads had issued a new schedule of rates that were to be effective today. This new schedule was fought by the lumbermen and resulted in the issuance of the temporary injunction.

The railroads have evidently found another method of combatting the lumbermen. The latest move is the refusal to accept any shipments of lumber at any rate. The roads figure they would be taking too great a risk to allow the excess freight to accumulate until a final decision on the rate is made, as they say that litigation will ensue before the matter is settled, and many of the lumber firms may have gone out of business.

COURT SIGNS ORDER.

Grants Injunction Asked by the Oregon Lumbermen.

Portland, Nov. 1.—Following the decision rendered by the United States Circuit Court at Seattle Wednesday, Judge Wolverton, of the Federal court, granted an injunction yesterday restraining the railroads from putting in the advanced lumber rates to the East until the merits of the case can be set before the Interstate Commerce commission and a hearing be held. The restraining order was asked by the Oregon & Washington Lumber Manufacturers' association, and upon his return from Seattle yesterday morning Judge Wolverton announced that the prayer of the lumbermen would be granted.

Judge Wolverton ordered the association to put up a bond for $250,000 that will be called for in the event the railroads finally win. This money will be used to pay the difference between the present rates and the proposed tariffs, should the railroads finally win.

Lumber companies in the state not members of the association are advised to file suits in intervention as soon as possible, in order that the railroads will not be enabled to enforce the proposed freight rates on firms not parties to the suit brought by the association.

The advanced rates, as announced by the railroads on all lumber shipments to the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, were to have gone into effect today, but the injunction will postpone them indefinitely. The increase was published some time ago and tariffs issued by the railroads. Appeals were made direct to the Interstate Commerce commission to postpone the enforcement of the rate, but as no complaint was before the commission, it could not act upon the appeal.

MONEY IS EASIER.

Acute Stage of Financial Crisis Over in East.

New York, Nov. 1.—Indications that the available supply of cash would be materially increased wthin a short time with imports of gold and the increase of the bank note circulation, and that the movement of cotton and grain crops would be facilitated in every way possible, with the result of increasing our credits abroad, were the salient features of today's financial situation. It seemed to be recognized everywhere that the acute stage of the crisis was over and that all that remained was to obtain sufficient currency to resume currency payments upon a broad scale and thus to restore conditions prevailing before the crisis.

The engagements of gold made in New York, Chicago and elsewhere brought up the total import movement within the past week to $23,750.000. As the amount of gold will afford a basis of credit to four times the amount, or about $95,000,000, it will in itself afford much relief to the existing pressure.

Harvard Angers Germans.

New York, Nov. 1.—Special dispatches say that some comment has been raised in the American colony in Berlin by the fact that Harvard university has sent as this year's "exchange professor" a Britisher instead of an American. The professor in question is William Henry Schofield, who was born a Canadian and is a subject of King Edward. It is feared in American quarters that Harvard by its action has mixed up the plans of the kaiser for a German-American educational experiment.

Rumors of Annexation.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 1.—Failure on the part of the Dominion government to give relief to British Columbia from the incoming hordes of Orientals may one day lead to that part of the British domain being joined to the United States. Of all the questions before the people of British Columbia, the immigration issue is by far the most important. All foreigners coming into Canada by way of the Pacific must enter through Victoria or Vancouver.

Chinese Come in Via Mexico.

Mexico City, Nov. 1.—According to a dispatch to the Record, since the first of the year there have arrived at the port of Salina Cruz 4,763 Chinese. Of this total, two-thirds have for their destination the United States. A great many of these foreigners seem to have at one time lived in the United States and are laboring under the impression that they can get in again.

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St. Paul Fast Mail 8:15 p. m. via Spokane	Walla Walla, Lewiston, Spokane, Wallace, Pullman, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago and East.	8:00 a. m.

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