

1600 SHIPS OF 9,200,000 TONS IN MERCHANT FLEET

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—Within a little more than a year the United States will have an ocean-going merchant fleet of more than 1600 ships aggregating 9,200,000 tons, the shipping board announced today in a statement giving details of the government's shipbuilding progress.

This amount compares with a present tonnage of 3,599,000, of which 700,000 tons represents German and Austrian ships under operation by the United States. The American ships available for overseas service number 458 with a tonnage of 2,871,000. There are 117 German and Austrian ships with a tonnage of 700,000.

The emergency fleet corporation has commandeered in American shipyards nearly 400 steel ships of more than 2,500,000 tons and has contracted for 636 ships with a tonnage of 3,124,700.

"The fleet in prospect," said the statement, "is already becoming a reality. Several of the commandeered ships have been completed and already taking cargo, others will leave the ways in increasing numbers with each succeeding month. The ships for which the shipping board has contracted are under construction and the first launching is expected within 60 to 90 days."

In addition to the ships building and contracted for, the board plans to construct several million tons for which a billion dollars appropriation has just been asked of congress.

BIG DRIVE RESUMED

(Continued from Page One.)

delivering the recent smashing blow to the German line in Flanders, the British have resumed their drive, launching an attack on a wide front northeast and east of Ypres early this morning.

The trend of the battle was only briefly indicated in the early statement, Field Marshal Haig reporting that his troops were making good progress.

Apparently the effort is aimed at driving in deeper the wedge already forced into the German front astride the Ypres-Menin road and northward beyond the Ypres-Roulers railway line.

Last Thursday's thrust pushed this wedge approximately a mile further into the enemy's territory, where the ground gained was well consolidated and held firmly against new desperate counter-attacks.

Envelopment of Lille. The point of the wedge has now almost reached a line extending directly northward from the great French manufacturing city of Lille, the envelopment of which is assumed to be one of the great objectives of the Flanders attacks, in connection with the drive below Lille, carried out in the battle of Arras earlier in the year.

The enlargement of the Ypres salient is likewise having the effect of endangering the German line to the north, extending to the Belgian coast. Seemingly, it is now the purpose of the British to concentrate their offensive moves here and by repeating the tactics pursued last year on the Somme, compel a German retirement on a wide front both north and south.

Follows a Repulse. The new British blow was struck today just as the Germans were staggering from the effects of a sanguinary repulse they sustained yesterday in heavy attacks which they delivered on the ridge east of Ypres. The Germans had made their way into the British lines at two points on narrow fronts in one of those attacks, but were forced out in the later British counter effort.

Simultaneously the British are continuing their aerial and naval attacks on the Belgian coast. Another bombardment of Ostend, one of the German naval bases, was carried out by British warships. The Germans apparently attempted an aerial attack on the fleet, for the British admiralty reports that air patrols over the warships encountered six hostile machines, two of which were brought down.

On the French front there has been only artillery activity and raiding operations. The artillery fire was intense last night in the Verdun region between Beaumont and Bezonvaux, northeast of the fortress.

The W. C. T. U. will meet at the home of Mrs. Owell, 713 Cedar street, Thursday afternoon, for patriotic work. All members and others attending are requested to bring their thimbles and scissors, and any material that can be used—flour sacks for tea towels, outing flannel for gun wipes, old sheets, bed spreads or table linen.

GRAND DUKE PLOT PROVES HOAX TO ENRICH FAKIRS

PETROGRAD, Sept. 26.—A judicial investigation has shown that the famous monarchist plot of early September, in which Madame Hitrovo figured and in connection with which several grand dukes were arrested, was a hoax.

It appears that two volunteer soldiers and two civilians, exploiting the monarchist tendencies of a part of the population for their own personal benefit, issued a proclamation bearing an imposing seal in which the restoration of the monarchy was demanded. One such document was found in the home of Madame Hitrovo. With the proclamation the swindlers widely distributed a list of fake subscribers, purporting to show three million rubles collected largely from among the grand dukes.

As a matter of fact, it develops, the swindlers collected 1500 rubles, with which they proceeded to have an orgy in Vitebsk, on the Dvina.

SEATTLE SHIP STRIKE COMES OFF SATURDAY

SEATTLE, Sept. 26.—The strike committee of the Seattle Metal Trades council today decided to make no attempt to postpone the shippard and contract shop strike set for next Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The committee said that such an effort would not only fail, but would breed disorganization. Nearly 12,000 men in three large steel yards are involved.

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MACHINISTS TO ASK MORE PAY FROM UNCLE SAM'S NAVY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—Machinists employed by the government at virtually every yard and arsenal have presented revised demands for a further increase in wages over the fifty cents a day demanded last October.

The proposed new increases run up to \$1 a day. Representatives of approximately 12,000 machinists, in session here, are considering steps to be taken in case the demands are not granted. The demands of last October were met in part by increases in pay which, the machinists assert, averaged approximately 24 cents a day.

Demands for further increases in pay are based upon higher living costs at present than at the time the original demands were presented. The demands have been presented to President Wilson.

DON COSSACKS WANT KALEDINES REAPPOINTED

NOVOTCHERSK, Russia, Sept. 25.—The military government of Don Cossacks has decided upon the immediate reappointment of office of General Kaledines, the head of the Don Cossacks, who offered his resignation a week ago in view of the difference with Premier Kerensky. A resolution adopted by the Cossack congress points out to the government the necessity of making the truth known of the entire affair, in order to refute all rumors of a rebellion of the Don Cossacks.

TIRPITZ DECLARES BELGIUM GETTING HER JUST DESERTS

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 25.—(Delayed).—The new German fatherland party held its first open meeting in Berlin last night and the crowd in Philharmonic hall was so enormous that an overflow meeting was held nearby. No government officials attended either meeting. Duke Johann Albrecht of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, opened both meetings and Admiral Von Tirpitz was the principal speaker at each.

Admiral Von Tirpitz pointed out that the submarine warfare is Germany's legal right and that Belgium now has her just deserts. Belgium, the speaker declared, was always England's bridgehead and that Germany must do her utmost in preventing England from becoming Belgium's protecting master. Admiral Von Tirpitz further declared that peace without a heavy war indemnity meant Germany's defeat and the victory of Anglo-American capitalism. Admiral Von Tirpitz was greeted enthusiastically.

BERLIN, Sept. 26.—"We have established that we are unconquerable in a military and economic way and that we will continue to remain the stronger party, provided we do not lose our nerve," said Admiral Von Tirpitz in his speech before the first open meeting of the new German fatherland party.

Charging that "Anglo American capital was making every effort to save the money it invested in this war," Admiral Von Tirpitz continued:

"We have not overlooked opportunities to gain President Wilson's friendship, but invariably have achieved the opposite result."

Among the Portland visitors in the city today are Mrs. A. V. McChesney, S. Kingsley, C. W. Kemp, Mrs. M. Gregory, S. H. Moss, H. N. Starr, M. C. Hatton, F. MacFarland, E. H. Clark, F. M. Brown and W. H. Irvine.

RATE FOR VESSELS FIXED BY BOARD AT \$5.75 A TON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—A charter rate of \$5.75 a ton a month has been decided on by the shipping board as a base the government will pay for requisitioned ocean-going merchant vessels. Within a short time the board will take over for government use every American vessel available for overseas service.

The vessels will be requisitioned and turned back to their owners in most cases for operation probably on time charter in the trades which the government holds are most necessary for a successful conduct of the war. In this manner the shipping board will have complete control of ocean freight rates on American carried goods and can direct the service of all vessels flying the American flag.

Both the army and the navy have commandeered many ships for their own uses at varying rates, the navy operating those it has taken as auxiliaries and the army running its vessels as transports and supply ships. In the future the shipping board will

COAL OPERATORS CALL ON GARFIELD

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—Coal operators of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and western Pennsylvania today notified miners' representatives in conference here that they were unable to meet miners' demands for a wage increase of about 75 per cent unless the government revises the prices on bituminous coal. It is probable that after another conference between operators and miners late today, Dr. H. A. Garfield, the coal administrator, will be called in to consider the situation.


LONDON, Sept. 26.—The Gazette announces the appointment of Kermit Roosevelt as temporary honorary captain while specially employed, from August 22 last.

Kermit Roosevelt, who was in training at Plattsburg, left there on July 9 to accept an offer to serve in the British army on the staff of General Maude, commander of the Mesopotamia forces. With Mrs. Roosevelt he arrived at a British port on July 25.

DARING ESCAPE FROM INTERNMENT OF 22 GERMANS

LONDON, Sept. 26.—One of the most daring escapes from internment camps was effected yesterday, to Kogworth, Nottingham. Twenty-two German prisoners, including Captain Muller, who commanded the cruiser Emden, and Lieutenant Otto Thelan, disappeared thru a tunnel extending from a hut in the camp to a point outside the barbed wire fence. How the tunnel was dug is a mystery. Nine of the prisoners were recaptured, including Captain Muller and Lieutenant Thelan.

The latter made three previous escapes. With Lieutenant Emil Teichmann, another of the recaptured prisoners, he fled from the detention barracks at Chelmsford last May. The Germans made dummy locks of cardboard, substituting them for the locks on the cell doors. Dummy figures to deceive the sentry were made from bed clothes and some of their own garments. To make these figures the more realistic, they were decorated with shocks of hair from their mattresses.



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