

UNITED STATES RANKS FIRST IN MERCHANT SHIPS

Uncle Sam Steps Into Front Rank of Master Mariners Today When He Took Control of All Vessels Over 1500 Tons—636 Vessels Now Building.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Approximately 500 American coastwise and ocean ships of 1500 tons or over were commandeered today by the government. Ships on the great lakes are not affected.

While the government control became effective today the ships will continue in the same traffic and under the same plans as heretofore until they receive orders to the contrary.

Listed in Advance.

All along the Atlantic, gulf and Pacific coasts, American registered and enrolled ships, all carefully listed in advance in the shipping board files, were taken over for government control. As requests from the army, navy, allies and other government sources are passed upon for use of a certain amount of tonnage, orders will be telegraphed to ships assigning them to particular service. The order requisitions all cargo ships carrying 2500 tons total deadweight, including bunkers, water and stores, and all passenger steamers of not less than 2500 tons gross register. Approximately four-fifths of the number taken over are cargo ships.

Uncle Sam begins operations with a fleet of 575 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,577,644, to which he will add, within the next year, 636 vessels now building or under contract for the fleet corporation. These new vessels will have a tonnage of 5,923,000, giving Uncle Sam, before the close of 1918—losses by submarines not considered—a fleet of 1211 vessels, with a tonnage of 9,500,644.

This will place him second only to the British government as a shipping power, if, indeed, it does not put him into first place.

Lost a Third of Fleet.

Britain had, at the beginning of the war, approximately 14,000,000 tons of shipping, including liners and tramps. Her losses to date have been close to 5,000,000 tons, of which it is estimated some 2,000,000 tons have been replaced by new construction.

With this new step in shipping control, Uncle Sam becomes absolute dictator of all American shipping. For the remainder of the war every American vessel will operate under his orders, will be insured by his own war risk bureau, and all new construction will be on his order. Private owners, continuing to operate their vessels, will do so solely under government direction and control.

Vessels now on the ways or under contract for Uncle Sam include:

Building Contracted.

Four hundred vessels commanded in course of construction; to give 2,800,000 tons.

Three hundred wood vessels, of the original Denman program; to give 1,253,900 tons.

Fifty-eight composite vessels—wood with steel frames—to give 207,000 tons.

Two hundred and twenty-five fabricated steel vessels to give 1,663,000 tons.

This latter type of ship is counted on to furnish the greatest additional strength to our shipping resources. These fabricated ships have now been standardized in three sizes—9000 tons, 7500 tons and 5000 tons. Contracts for additional vessels of this type will be let just as soon as vessels now under way near completion so as to provide more room in shipyards. The fleet corporation is ready to let contracts for these vessels up to 200 of each size.

Driven by Turbines.

These vessels will be driven by turbines and equipped to burn fuel oil. This will give them greater cargo capacity, greater speed and lower cost of operation than the ordinary coal burning tramp.

That the shipping program, as now laid out, will enable this country to block the effectiveness of Germany's submarine campaign is confidently believed in official circles here. This result, of course, is due very largely to the greater effectiveness of our warfare against the subs, and to the fact that every American vessel now crossing to England or France is under convoy thru the submarine zones.

Despite gloomy forecasts by Lord Northcliffe, who sees the submarine menace increasing and the world's shipping facilities dwindling, there is a very definite feeling in governmental circles that our shipping situation is im-

CHORAL SOCIETY TO SING AT NAT FOR LIBERTY BONDS

The Medford Choral society of 125 voices will sing at the Natatorium Tuesday evening at the Liberty bond rally, when speeches will be made by Samuel M. Garland, state senator from Linn county, and W. S. U'Ren, father of the "Oregon system."

Mr. Garland is one of the most eloquent speakers in Oregon, while Mr. U'Ren has a national reputation as a progressive thinker. Altho in polit-



Hon. W. S. U'Ren, "father of the Oregon System," one of the speakers at the Liberty loan rally at the Natatorium evening.

tics both speakers vigorously oppose each other, they are united in their love of country and patriotic effort to assist in the war.

Mr. Andrews, director of the Choral society, has issued the following to the Choral society:

Notice, Medford Choral Society.

We have been requested by the Liberty bond committee to adjourn from our rehearsal tomorrow (Tuesday) evening to the Natatorium and assist in the program of the Liberty bond rally which takes place on Tuesday evening, Oct. 16.

I am reluctant to interrupt our rehearsals, but feel that in this case we all have a call from our country and I anticipate that each member of the society will consider it a pleasant duty. Be on time so that we can leave St. Mark's by 8 o'clock.

GEO. ANDREWS, Director.

REIMER DISCOVERS BLIGHT-PROOF PEAR

M. Maruyama, steward of the University club, reports finding a news item with large headlines in one of his Japanese papers, which states substantially as follows:

"Professor Reimer, who is an authority in agriculture in the United States of America, and who was dispatched to Japan in August by the United States government, has discovered a blight-resistant pear tree. He came to this country with the special object of finding a blight-resistant pear tree. They are grafted on the young trees. Since his arrival in Japan he has earnestly searched thru many provinces and at last has discovered them in the field near Yakkaichi City. The blight-resistant pear tree is found in China, Korea and Japan, but the best kind is from Japan. Prof. Reimer speaks very highly of his new resistant stock."

SOUTHWESTERN MINERS TO STRIKE

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 15.—A resolution calling for a strike affecting all mines of the Southwestern Coal Operators' association in Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas, beginning next Friday morning, was passed today at a meeting of the presidents and secretaries of the state organization of the United Mine Workers of America in this city.

DUTCH DANCER AND SPY SHOT AT DAWN IN PARIS

PARIS, Oct. 15.—Mata Hari, the Dutch dancer and adventuress, who two months ago was found guilty by a court martial on the charge of espionage, was shot at dawn this morning.

proving, rather than growing worse, and that it will continue to improve at an increasing rate beginning in April.

CHRISTMAS SMOKES FOR UNCLE SAM'S BOYS AT FRONT

Subscriptions to the Mail Tribune tobacco fund continue to come in. The standing today is as follows:

Previously reported	\$45.00
H. O. Powers, Talent	1.00
Eleanor Powers, Talent	.50
J. E. Stewart, Medford	.50
H. D. Blanchard, Prospect	.50
T. M. Peeler, Prospect	.50
Orval Zimmerman, Central Pt.	.25
R. B. Zimmerman, Central Pt.	.25
Mrs. R. B. Zimmerman, Cen. Pt.	.25
M. S. Shirriffs, Central Pt.	.25
Mrs. J. J. Emmens, Medford	1.00
C. E. Whiteman, Medford	.50
A. P. Hagen, Medford	.50
T. A. Fifer, Medford	.50
Sid I. Brown, Medford	.50
E. J. Runyard, Medford	.50
Alfreda King, Medford	.25
Preacher, Medford	1.00
Cash, Medford	5.00
Medford Junk Co, Medford	1.00
J. L. Demmer, Medford	.50
Mrs. H. S. Aikens, Medford	.25
A. H. Fisher, Phoenix	.50
Mrs. L. M. Snyder, Gold Hill	.50
Bert Kisinger, Gold Hill	.25
Mrs. S. Snyder, Gold Hill	.50
Minor Foster	.10
Cash	2.50
Mason Ehrman employes	5.00
T. Slater Johnson	5.00
Ralph Ewing	.50
W. A. Folger	1.00
Wm. Morris	.50
P. N. Cummings	.25
Billy Cummings	.25
W. W. Willard	2.00
Cash	.50
J. C. Smith	.25
Total	\$80.20

Resent Criticism.

To the Editor

Gentlemen: Inclosed please find check for \$5 which the employes of Mason, Ehrman & Co. desire to contribute to your tobacco fund for the boys at the front.

Some of us smoke and some of us do not, but we all agree on one thing, and that is if the Red Cross society, the greatest institution of its kind that has ever been organized, and the United States government, the greatest government the world has ever known, both approve of this movement we can square our conscience a great deal easier by contributing toward it than we can by going out of our way to try and thwart it, as some of your recent correspondents seem constrained to do.

Who are they that presume to criticize such institutions?

Very truly yours,

GEO. T. COLLINS.

To the Editor:

Enclosed find \$5 for the soldiers' tobacco fund. This is the best answer I know to printed criticisms for supplying the boys in the trenches of France with the comfort and luxury of tobacco.

T. SLATER JOHNSON.

Medford, Oct. 15.

You Can Have Your Soldier.

You can have "your soldier in the trenches" somewhere in France simply by making a subscription of 25 cents to our soldiers' tobacco fund. You can have more than one if you care to.

Every 25-cent tobacco outfit sent out by this fund contains a postcard, stamped, with your name and address written on it—when you make your subscription give us your name and address.

The soldier who gets that package with your postcard on it is asked to write you some message of acknowledgement for the courtesy of that little gift to his comfort.

When you get that postcard from the front you'll know that your 25 cents has given comfort and satisfaction to some young fellow who is fighting your fight at the front.

We are receiving subscriptions every day, every hour, for smokers for the soldiers. If we haven't yours yet, come or send; if we have already had yours, make another one.

Objectors Answered.

This from a recent issue of the Medical Journal: "Some of the clergymen of Los Angeles object to the distribution of tobacco among the soldiers at the front by the Red Cross society. While the

ground for this objection is not stated in the newspaper reports, it can easily be inferred. It is hardly likely it will carry any weight with the Red Cross society. The intense nervous strain imposed by the conditions at the front in the present war requires that everything possible should be done to allay nervous irritation.

"Amusement for men when relieved of duty at the immediate front is recognized as an important factor in preventing neurosis. Many of the men in the army are confirmed smokers, and to deny these men tobacco is to induce a nervous irritation which will materially militate against their efficiency. It would be the height of folly, both from a military and a medical standpoint, to deny tobacco to the men at the front."

Red Cross Co-Operates.

So, you see, if Sammy smokes, it is essential to his welfare that he has tobacco. That is why the Red Cross and the government have put their O. K. on the movement to keep Sammy in the trenches plentifully supplied with "smokes" while he is helping to make things warm for the Kaiser.

Every contributor of 25 cents to the Mail Tribune fund will receive a card of thanks from the Sammy who receives one of these packets. If you contribute \$1 you will receive four of these cards, four Sammys being grateful to you.

You can spare a quarter. You may be able to spare more. Your money will be going to an excellent cause, and it's easy to do your bit in this way. Whatever you can spare will be welcome.

Come on, folks, help make the fund one for Medford and Jackson county to be proud of!

CENSORSHIP TO FOLLOW NOTICE OF TROOP MOVES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Aroused by publication in some parts of the country of private cablegrams announcing arrival of American troops in France, the war and navy departments today took steps to prevent a repetition of the incidents which may result in the court martial of the officers who sent the messages.

In one case a former national guard officer wired his governor of the arrival of the state's troops, but so far as is known here, newspapers

CLERGY BARRED FROM RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT

PETROGRAD, Oct. 15.—The orthodox council, at a meeting in Moscow, has decided against permitting the clergy participating in the provisional parliament.

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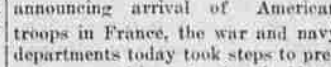


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