

SHARP EXCHANGE MARKS AIR PROBE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—(United News)—Coming late in the afternoon, after one of the most colorful days of the court martial—a day marked impressively by tribute to a nation's military dead and marred by a collapse in the stuffy room of the wife of Maj. Gen. Robert L. Howse, president of the court—was testimony, confusing in nature but apparently supporting Mitchell's contention, that the army and navy knowingly stifled aviation developments.

For the first time during the court martial the navy came in direct contact with the trial. An augmented prosecutor's staff drew fire from Representative Reid, chief of Mitchell's counsel with the result that Capt. A. W. Johnson, naval officer and prospective defense witness was ordered from his place with the prosecution and excused from the court room.

Then later the name of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, former assistant secretary of the navy crept into the proceedings.

Correspondence in 1924 between Roosevelt and Gen. Patrick, head of the army air service was introduced for the purpose of proving alleged collusion between the army and navy in the annual air races.

Roosevelt, in letters read by Maj. Hubert R. Harmon, junior aide to the president and brother of Gen. Millard P. Harmon, of the general staff, proposed that the army and navy air services should be regarded as "sister services" and in such light should exchange racing planes rather than attempt building new ones of greater speed, a suggestion eagerly pounced upon by Mitchell as proof that the two departments were "stifling" aircraft development. Patrick, it was understood agreed with Roosevelt and the department did exchange racing planes and agreed that there should be an interchange of devices, designs or airplanes showing greater speed.

The defense again directed its attack on the effectiveness of anti-aircraft gun fire. Capt. B. V. Baucom, American ace, who, with his pilot, Lieut. Williams in 100 hours of flying over enemy lines in France during the world war downed more enemy planes than any other American flier testified ground firing against air craft, "is absolutely ineffective."

He told the court that he had been subjected to anti-aircraft gun fire, virtually all of the 100 hours he was in the air, that he flew as low as 500 feet over his own front and as low as 10 to 15 feet over enemy lines in what he described as "head-popping" flights. That, he said, was the answer to the effectiveness of ground fire.

Baucom bore out Mitchell's charge that the air service was jeopardized by a lack of competent airplane mechanics. He characterized the mechanic problem as "most complex and irritating," saying that it was difficult to get good mechanics in the army for \$21 a month when they could get \$10 a day in civilian pursuits.

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These secured, he added, were lost to the fliers, a great part of the time because they were assigned to other duties, even acting as "kitchen police" at times.

"We have 132 mechanics," he said, "and out of that number there are only four or five real mechanics. This situation is bound to jeopardize the lives of fliers."

Gen. Howse as with other witnesses who scoffed at the effectiveness of ground fire on planes, raked Baucom over the coals in a staccato-like cross examination.

"Don't you know that 28 French planes are reported to have been shot down by Riffian ground fire?" asked Howse in one of his questions.

"I don't believe the reports," replied Baucom.

Air service personnel is below peace time requirements, Col. O. C. Pierce, in charge of air service personnel records disclosed. Instead of the 1247 officers required, there are today but 950 air officers of which 13 are non-flier and 132 airplane observers.

The pilot situation is deplorable, he pointed out, the army air defenses rely on 32 superior or first class pilots. Out of the entire number of all pilots in the army, but one, he said, is unclassified.

"And what," asked Reid, do you mean by unclassified.

"A man who flies anything," Pierce answered.

"Who is the man?" pursued Reid.

"General Mitchell," flung back Pierce.

Pierce testified that since 1920 at least 45 of the best flying officers in the army had resigned, that 475 had been injured and 322 killed. Resignations from the air service, he said, were greater than in any other branch of the military service.

Reserve air officers today number 6,927 and of that number of what Tuesday was testified to be a "paper organization" 2,229 are non-fliers.

It was through Maj. Gen. C. Brant of the general staff that Mitchell's counsel launched its attack on the staff itself. He testified that flying fields were in bad shape, that the finance officer of the war department was liberal in his pruning of the air service's financial demands and that he had slashed the 1926 appropriation asked nearly 50 per cent from \$27,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

Maj. Brandt wasted no words in branding the condition of the air service as "deplorable" and attributed it to the economy program. He attacked the personnel and equipment provisions for the Hawaiian islands, saying it was 50 per cent deficient, and added that the recent Hawaiian maneuvers were such that the real conclusions after it were never given to the public.

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DINNER GIVEN FOR HUGHES SIGNIFICANT

(Continued from Page One)

stration affairs. In the western states there is an incipient revolt against Secretary of the Interior Work's handling of public lands and reclamation projects. Secretary of the Navy Wilbur has been pounded for the series of naval disasters recently suffered. Col. Mitchell's fight before the court martial is exposing some unsatisfactory conditions in the army which will bring criticism. The preceding head of the alien property custodian's office is under indictment on graft charges. Extreme dirts are screaming at Secretary of the Treasury Mellon demanding tighter enforcement. Some of the farmers are complaining because the administration doesn't do something beside investigate.

Yet looking at the whole picture, these complaints are barely distinguishable. They haven't damaged the portrait of Coolidge which was held up before the country a year ago. Taxes are coming down one step at a time, business men are romping about in an amazing series of consolidations and stock dividends like school boys when the teacher leaves the room. The only persons not working are those who don't have to. Evidences of at least comfortable living for almost all are seen in the distribution of cheap automobiles, radios, and other luxuries of the small salaried man and wage earner.

LOWER KLAMATH TO BE RAVEN OF DUCK

(Continued from Page One)

Governor Pierce had requested several members of the game commission to change their action.

Residents of Klamath county fear an iron of re-flooding until a gike is built because they are suspicious that some one will permit the entire lake bed to be re-flooded.

SYRIAN MENACE MAY BE THREAT TO U. S.

(Continued from Page One)

authorities in the Philippines are worried, even if Washington is not." The powers take the view that the future of their interests throughout Asia and Africa is threatened by the series of rebellions against white ascendancy which began when Turkey, whose population is only twice as large as that of New York city, successfully defied an alignment of the greatest powers in Europe. To the Turkish victory at Lausanne is ascribed responsibility for all the trouble of the past two years in Morocco and China and it is a contributing factor to the unrest in India. Soviet Russia is charged with

leading importance and to subject peoples by instigating trouble throughout Asia. The powers claim to have positive information that Russian agents constantly are busy at such work, especially in China, Afghanistan, Turkey, India, Persia, Syria, Morocco and Tunisia.

Bolshevik concentrations may be expected soon in Syria if the present situation continues there, it is believed.

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