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STRENGTH OF SHIPS DEVELOPS ISSUE

CALLED TO ATTENTION OF COMMITTEE—FIGHTING EFFICIENCY OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN VESSELS DISCUSSED AT WASHINGTON.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Relative fighting efficiency of British and American battleships, particularly at long range were understood today to have been called sharply to the attention of the Senate naval committee in consideration of the pending naval appropriation bill. Naval officers are known to be greatly concerned on the point as the British have virtually completed post-war modernization of their 15-inch gun ships and no start on similar work has yet been made in the American navy.

The effect of the British postwar improvement, it was said today in naval circles, was to give the entire main British fleet a range of 30,000 yards against a maximum of about 20,000 yards for all American battleships but the Tennessee, California, Maryland, Colorado and West Virginia in addition as permitted under the Washington treaty the British ships have been equipped with "blister" anti-torpedo construction and their deck armored against airplane bombs and high angle fire.

A rough estimate of the cost of modernizing American ships in the same way, so far as increasing gun elevations and strengthening decks is concerned, is approximately \$60,000,000. In the British estimate as high as \$4,000,000 is said to have been expended on a single ship.

When naval estimates were under consideration in the budget bureau and later before the House appropriations sub-committee, it was said, funds were asked by navy officials for a limited beginning this year on making over battleships to be retained under the treaty.

Change from coal to oil fuel is of vital importance in widening the effective radius of action of the ships it was explained by naval officials, while substitution of five-inch anti-aircraft batteries means using shells with a fifty-yard "burst" instead of the 25-yard area covered by 3-inch projectiles. In other words, it was said, a "curtain of fire" against aircraft with five-inch guns would need one half the number of guns in action to make it effective.

ACCIDENT AT MARTIN'S MILL

William Coleman, one of the bands of the Carter Construction gang, now building a bridge near Martin's Mill has been missing since Tuesday and it is feared that he has lost his life in the mill pond.

The negro is half-witted and has been accustomed to going into the pond after work. Thursday night his clothes were found on the banks of the river by one of the highway hands and today Deputy Prince and Judge McCombs went to Martin's Mill to investigate the matter. The mill pond will be drained Saturday in an effort to find the negro. It is possible he went into the water not realizing how cold it was Tuesday. He had \$1.20 in his pockets.

MRS. LEE SICK

Mrs. W. A. Lee, who is in Elberton with her daughter, Mrs. Rogers, has been confined to her bed for two weeks with flu. Abbeville friends hope soon to hear that she is quite well again.

COTTON MARKET

Cotton on the local market today was 26 1-4 cents. Futures closed

January	25.96
March	26.28
May	26.38
July	26.28

GOVERNMENT WILL SELL ANCIENT LAND IN SOUTH

Bought Long Ago—Some of it Might Have Figured in History If Developed.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Bits of land which have, or if developed might have figured largely in the history of the south are included in the war department's "land junk" sale.

The bill authorizing the sale, which was today before the senate military committee shows that the federal government plans to dispose of real estate which was acquired as early as 1799, for fortification purposes, but which modern warfare has relegated to the class of "surplus and unnecessary government property."

Communications received by a number of senators from southern states indicate that some of the property will be purchased by historical societies.

The parcels to be sold include Beaton Island off the North Carolina coast, which was acquired by the government in 1799 as a site for fortifications off Newbern which was an important city at the close of the revolutionary war; Fort Macon, near Beaufort, and Morehead City, N. C., bought in 1910 and 1826 as a site for the defense of Old Top Sail inlet and Fort Stephens on the Mississippi river, South of New Orleans, which was acquired as "defense against the British prior to the battle of New Orleans."

Examination of the history of the tracts to be offered for sale revealed today that the deeds to two tracts, old Fort Jackson at Savannah, Ga., and Perry Point, in Norfolk county, Virginia, were made out and stand today to "Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States, and his successor in office."

Another tract, Fort Nelson, also in Norfolk county, Virginia, and bought as a site for fortifications for Norfolk, is covered by a deed made out to John Quincy Adams, and his successors in the office of President.

ASK RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR INSTRUCTORS

Charged With Making Home Brew At North Carolina State College.

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—Resignations of four instructors at North Carolina State College of agriculture and engineering here have been requested as a result of charges that they made "home brew" in their rooms, Dr. W. C. Riddick, president of the institution announced today.

The president did not give any further details, except to confirm reports that the action followed an investigation by students who conducted a private investigation. The names of the instructors who were said to have offered their resignations as requested, were given as C. V. Busbe, T. B. Parks, C. B. Buckner and J. C. Miller.

No further action is contemplated, it was said.

DECEMBER 24 TO BE WORLD PEACE SUNDAY

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America today issued a request to 100,000 congregations in the United States to observe December 24 as "World Peace Sunday" to demand that the government of the world finds ways to settle their disputes other than by war. The message also asked that the churches act in concert throughout the year toward attainment of a warless world through "World Peace Sunday" it was added, under an agreement reached last summer at Copenhagen by the conference of the World Alliance for International Friendship through the churches.

Wedding Guest.

Miss Lucia Featherstone of Greenwood was among the out of town guests at the Haskell-Smith wedding Thursday afternoon.

EIGHT RAILWAYS LEFT HOMELESS

CHICAGO STATION DESTROYED BY FLAMES—A BLACKENED BRICK SHELL STANDS WHERE POLK STREET DEPOT WAS BUILT IN 1884.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Fire starting a few minutes before 4 o'clock this afternoon destroyed the Dearborn street railroad station, formerly known as the Polk street depot, and left eight railroads homeless in Chicago.

The building erected in 1884 was valued at \$300,000, but will cost more than \$1,000,000 to replace, it was said.

Within a little more than an hour after a traffic policeman saw smoke issuing from the roof, the flames swept through the 38 year old brick and wood structure, once the pride of railroad men, and left only a smoke blackened brick shell behind.

Hundreds of passengers and 200 men and women clerks fled to safety. Postal clerks with motor trucks rescued 150 tons of holiday mail and railroad employees saved all passenger cars in the train sheds.

The station was owned by the Chicago & Western Indiana railroad and was used by trains of that line and the Santa Fe, Monon, Erie, Chesapeake & Ohio, Chicago & Eastern Illinois, Wabash and Canadian Grand Trunk.

Crossed wires are believed to have started the fire. Within 15 minutes after the fire was discovered and while apparatus was still arriving in response to a series of general alarms, the roof of the north wing fell in.

The eight railroads began reorganizing their service while the fire was still at its height, establishing offices in the station annex, a one story building across the alley.

Seventy in Her Family.

Gornal, Eng.—Mrs. Emma Flavell aged, 77, has 15 children, 44 grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

AN INTERESTING PROGRAM

Is Given at the Parent-Teacher Meeting Tuesday Afternoon.

The regular meeting of the Parent-Teacher association was held Tuesday at the graded school and the program furnished an excellent afternoon's entertainment for the members present. The program was in charge of Miss Annie Hill and Miss Thomas of the seventh grades and was as follows:

Christmas Carol ----- Class Reading—Through the Phone

Mabel Bradley.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing—Class.

Story of Christ... Margaret Penney.

Recitation ----- Martha Calvert.

Lady Clare Act—Nona Tutt, Mary

Norwood Perrin, Edward Cornely,

John McMurray and Leon Ellis.

Song ----- Mabel Richardson

Recitation..... Dorothy Humbert.

Miss Thomas' fifth grade was

awarded one prize and Miss McMillan's seventh grade won the other prize.

A CHRISTMAS TURKEY

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Peele were made happy today by the Christmas gift of a fine turkey from Circle No. 1, of which Mrs. Peele was a member during the past year.

The Peeles usually spend the holidays away from Abbeville but this year they are staying here and they are pleased with the gift from Circle No. 1.

ON GREENVILLE STREET

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Thomson are expected from Pell City Saturday and will spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Barnwell.

SENATE DEADLOCK IS TIGHTENED UP

SHIPPING BILL ADVOCATES HOLD ON TO FLOOR—FARM RELIEF SUPPORTERS MAKE EFFORT TO HAVE THEIR MEASURE TAKEN UP

Washington, Dec. 21.—Five hours of debate and preliminary maneuvering in the Senate today served only to tighten the deadlock which has existed for three days between two opposing and almost equal groups one fighting to keep the administration shipping bill before the Senate and the other to displace the measure.

Three separate and distinct efforts were made during the day to break the deadlock through a unanimous consent agreement to vote at a designated time upon the pending motion to lay aside the shipping bill and take up the Norris agricultural financing measure but each time an objection nullified the attempt. After the unsuccessful result of these efforts to debate ran far afield ranging from a discussion of the disposition of Muscle Shoals to charges that Ambassador Harvey at London through his recent statement on the European situation has endeavored to affect the cotton and grain markets in the United States.

Shipping and agricultural relief legislation were discussed at lesser length, and when the Senate adjourned administration leaders were frankly pessimistic over the possibility of a vote within several weeks upon the ship bill. General belief was expressed that Christmas recess would come and go without a break in the struggle for dominance between those trying to keep the ship bill before the Senate until rural credits legislation can be reported from the banking and currency committee, and these members of the alliance formed between foes of the ship bill and advocates of the Norris agricultural bill.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

Mrs. Gambrell, Chairman of Committee Makes Good Report.

Mrs. C. C. Gambrell who has the sale of Christmas Seals in charge this year has been very successful. Many bonds have been sold. The Peoples and the Farmers Banks have bought \$5.00 bonds and the National bank has bought a \$10 bond. The high school bought a \$10 bond and Miss McMillan and the pupils of the seventh grade are responsible for a \$5 bond and Miss Crowley and the pupils of the sixth grade took one \$5 bond also. The pupils of the grammar school bought a \$10 bond and one \$5 bond.

About \$150.00 has been realized so far and the committee feels that when reports are made from all places where stamps have been offered a good sum of money will be in hand. The money will be used for stamping out tuberculosis.

A "MIDDIE" AT HOME

Mr. W. J. Carwile, a son of Mr. F. A. Carwile, is at home for the holidays and was on our streets today seeing his friends. The young man has been in the navy for several years and has traveled the world over. He has had many thrilling experiences and tells of them in an entertaining manner.

GROOMSMEN.

Mr. and Mrs. John Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Speed and Miss Mary Hill Harris went to Due West Thursday to attend the marriage of Miss Virginia Galloway and Mr. Ansel Putnam. Mr. Harris and Mr. Speed were attendants at the marriage.

HALF MILLION BALES GINNED IN THE STATE

Nearly Two Million Ahead of Last Year—Total Ginnings Are 9,493,296 Bales.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Cotton ginned prior to December 13 amounted to 9,493,296 running bales, including 161,698 round bales, counted as half bales; 24,613 bales of American-Egyptian and 5,255 bales of sea island, the census bureau announced today.

To December 13, last year, ginnings were 7,790,656 running bales, including 122,649 round bales, counted as half bales; 25,827 bales of American-Egyptian and 3,062 bales of sea island.

Ginnings this year to December 13, by states follows:

Alabama	811,759
Arizona	31,461
Arkansas	990,168
California	20,461
Florida	27,052
Georgia	724,879
Louisiana	341,970
Mississippi	976,624
Missouri	130,706
North Carolina	830,305
Oklahoma	626,172
South Carolina	502,594
Tennessee	373,009
Texas	3,065,972
Virginia	24,972
All other states	15,132

FREIGHT RATES HIGHER

On Fertilizer in South Carolina Than Any Other State.

Columbia, Dec. 21.—Steps to put freight rates on fertilizer in South Carolina on a parity with rates prevailing in North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama were taken by the State Railroad Commission today.

Commissioner J. B. Wade, of Aiken submitted a tabulation showing that the rate per ton for hauling fertilizer was higher in South Carolina than in the neighboring States for all distances up to 300 miles at which point the rates became approximately the same. Mr. Wade pointed out, however, that South Carolina is such a small State geographically that there is little possibility of great quantity of fertilizer material being shipped as far as 300 miles.

The rates now in effect for a haul of several miles, according to Mr. Wade, given in cents per ton, are: Georgia 37, Alabama 2.38, North Carolina 2.73, South Carolina 2.93.

For 300 miles: Georgia 3.83, Alabama 3.82, North Carolina 4.05, South Carolina 3.82.

These rates are now existing, it was stated, the 10 per cent reduction ordered July 1 by the Interstate Commerce Commission having been deducted.

THE COURT HOUSE

There was mighty little news around the Court House today. Treasurer Cheatham says taxes are coming in so slow that he has time to read the newspapers instead of having two or three assistants as is usual at this time of year. Mr. Cheatham says many tax payers are waiting to see "what the legislature is going to do." The news comes in from the State treasurer that only sixteen thousand dollars in tax money has been paid in at that office.

County Supervisor Keller says the roads are so bad since the freeze he is keeping off them.

LITTLE TROUBLE

During the freeze Wednesday the Water and Light Plant came through their difficulties with flying colors. A wire down in front of Harrison's Garage cut the current off for an hour in the afternoon, after which there was no further trouble.

NEW MOVE MADE IN REPARATIONS

BUSINESS MEN MAY CONSIDER QUESTION—TRADE COMMISSION HEADED BY CHANCELLOR CUNO OF GERMANY MAKES REQUEST

London, Dec. 21.—The United States, at the request of a trade commission headed by Wilhelm Cuno, the German chancellor, has begun negotiations with France and England looking to the appointment of a body of American business men for the fixing of new basis for the payment of war reparations, it was understood here today.

In semi-official quarters it was said England's consent to such a plan had been cabled to Secretary Hughes today and that the American state department at Washington expected an early reply from France.

The proposal is understood to have reached Secretary Hughes through the United States chamber of commerce, which body was asked by Chancellor Cuno and his associates to appoint a commission headed by Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, which would visit Germany and make an impartial survey of the country's financial and economic position.

The American commission was to be empowered to determine what amount of reparations Germany could pay and upon the basis of its report a new reparations treaty would agree to fulfill if the plans were approved by England and France.

The United States chamber of commerce complied with request of the German chancellor to the extent of asking Mr. Hoover to take the question up with President Harding's cabinet, which he did, with the result that the matter was placed in the hands of Secretary Hughes.

The negotiations between Mr. Hoover and the English and French governments followed with the object in view of obtaining their consent to abide by the reparations sum fixed by the American commission as within Germany's ability to pay.

Officials in London refused to comment on the subject tonight.

OFFERED JACK DEMPSEY \$350,000 FOR BOXING MATCH

Portland, Oregon, Dec. 19.—W. H. Klepper, principal owner of the Portland Pacific Coast league baseball club, last night telegraphed Jack Kearns, manager for Jack Dempsey an offer of \$350,000 for a ten round boxing match for the heavyweight championship of the world, between Dempsey and Jess Willard here July 4, next.

Willard, who is here, said he was agreeable to the proposal.

NO MORE CONGESTION

Washington, Dec. 21.—Despite heavy increases in holiday mail in some sections of the country, no congestion was reported in any of the 15 mail service divisions of the country in telegraphic reports received today by the post office department. Marked improvement in the operation of trains also was reported. The Atlanta division reported an increase over last Christmas estimated at 50 per cent and San Francisco showed a gain of 30 per cent.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE

Manager Verchot will have a good line of pictures all of next week at the Opera House and the young folks home for the holidays will have plenty to entertain them in the way of pictures.