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THE GLORIOUS THIRTIETH

Lieut. Thomas B. Marshall has sent to the Columbia State two clippings from London papers which testify eloquently to the valor of the Thirtieth Division. They are as follows:

"It was not impossible at the time to speak more than cursorily of the share of the Americans in our attack of September 20, when, on their whole front of about 6,000 yards, United States troops broke through the defenses of the Hindenburg line and canal tunnel, and on farther right forced the crossing of the canal itself. It would have been a great achievement for the most experienced soldiers in the allied armies. For inexperienced troops, as the Americans were, it was a truly extraordinary performance.

"The American troops were Southerners, chiefly Carolinians and men of Tennessee and New Yorkers. All alike went straight into the German defenses, which were of a most formidable kind, and swept their objectives. The impetuosity of their advance made possible the great advance of the British Ninth Corps on their right. It was the Southerners who took the village of Bellicourt and Nauroy, where the New Yorkers, reckless of the intense enemy machine gun fire on their left, swept on towards Guoy and Mont St. Martin. That some of the latter went too fast and too far, you know. Nests of Germans, who skulked in the ramifications of the tunnel and in various lairs and burrows, were left undestroyed as the advance streamed on, and these were reinforced by other enemy, who trickled southward through the barrage on the left. Probably, if those Americans on the left of the attack had been less wholehearted fighters, and could have curbed their impatience to get at and kill the enemy in front, they would have had fewer casualties. But the episode would have been less glorious.

"Australians were to follow up behind and they have spoken to me in terms only of superlative praise of the way the Americans behaved. An English colonel, himself the holder of the Victoria Cross, and something of a judge, has made a memorandum of the

Americans' charge and speaks of it in highest possible terms. The American dead, he says, lay stretched with their faces to the enemy, and 'not in one case was there a man moving backwards when killed.' The success of the Southerners on the right was perfect, and 'without the gallant fighting of the New York troops on their left it would have been impossible for the Southerners to have made their advance.' He concluded by saying: "The officers and men did all that it was humanly possible for brave men to do, and their gallantry in this action must stand out through all time in American history."

"How difficult the ground was is, perhaps, best shown by the fact that it was not until after three days' more hard fighting that the Australians succeeded in finally mopping up all the defenses which the Americans overran at one splendid burst, and other divisions of home troops on the left completed the capture of Guoy and Le Catelet. The American performance that day was truly magnificent, as their fighting has been on every occasion when they have fought with British troops on this front.—London Times, Oct. 7.

"On the extreme right of the British attack the Sixth Division and troops of another English division have driven the enemy from this ridge of high ground southeast and east of Bontebrehain, and have captured the hamlet of Beaugard.

"In the right center the Thirtieth American Division, comprising troops from North and South Carolina and Tennessee, under the command of Gen. Lewis, captured Brancourt after heavy fighting, and further to the northeast took Premont, completing a successful advance of over three miles, in the course of which they cleared the enemy from a number of farms and woods.

"On their left English, Scottish and Irish troops of Twenty-fifth and Sixty-sixth Divisions, made equal progress and captured the village of Serain early in the day.—London Daily Chronicle, Oct. 9.

HUGE U. S. NAVY IS BEING BUILT

Washington, Dec. 6.—The American navy will number a total of 1,291 vessels, including 40 battleships and 329 destroyers on July 1, 1920, according to a statement prepared by Admiral Griffin, chief of the bureau of steam engineering, for the house naval committee, and made public today.

This statement shows that when war was declared there were 364 ships in the navy, while on November 1, ten days before hostilities ceased, there were 777, exclusively of privately owned yachts and other vessels taken over for patrol service. The greatest increase was 300 submarine chasers. The increase in destroyers was 41 to a total of 92 and submarines from 43 to 79.

Only two eagle boats had been com-

pleted on November 1. Ninety-eight others were contracted for, but Rear Admiral Taylor, chief of the bureau of construction and repair, has informed the committee, it became known today, that the navy department has given orders that only 60 of the vessels be completed. Keels for 80 of the eagles have been laid, but material for most of them has been fabricated.

Only two battleships were added to the fleet during the war and only one will be added between this time and July 1, 1920, Admiral Griffin said. Six others, however, actually are under construction, and two, the Tennessee and California, are approximately half completed. Work on three others is yet to be started.

Admiral Taylor informed the committee that contracts are yet to be placed for 23 ships which have been authorized. They include two battle-

ships, 12 destroyers, 10 submarines, two destroyer tenders, a repair ship, a transport and a submarine tender.

Work has not yet started on any of the five battle cruisers authorized in 1916, the laying down of these vessels and other major craft having been deferred because of the demands for destroyers during the war. Ninety-five destroyers authorized during the war are now more than half completed.

RESULTS WILL

STARTLE LAURENS

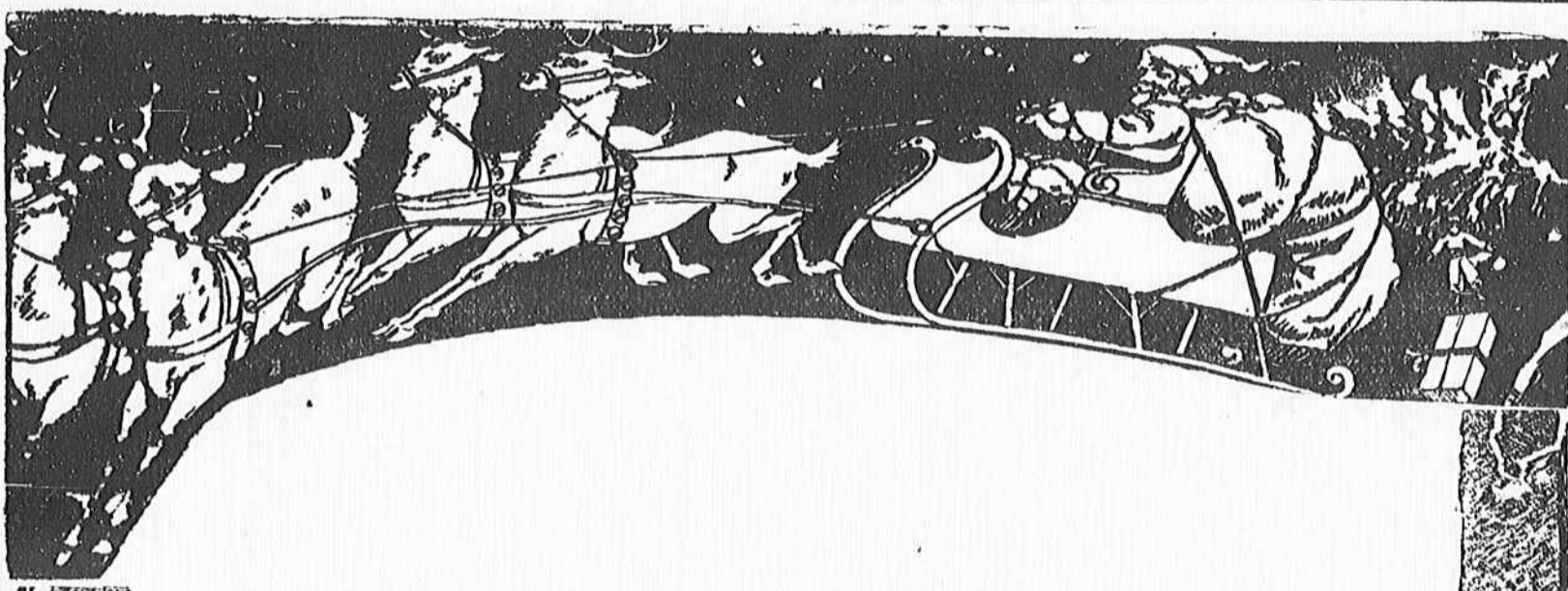
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BALFOUR FAVORS LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Vital Necessity, Says One of Britain's Peace Delegates—Russia's Status Expected to be Settled at the Conference.

London, Dec. 6.—(By the Associated Press.)—Arthur J. Balfour, secretary of state for foreign affairs, in outlining his view on the peace conference today told The Associated Press that he thought the meeting in Paris this month would be merely informal and preliminary to the conference of the associated governments at the first of the year, which would formulate all the peace terms. This agreement, he added, would be the most important and longest of the series. When it was finished the enemy countries would be called in to ratify the conclusions reached.

Mr. Balfour said the British government had not yet made any fixed arrangements for President Wilson to visit England, as it would be premature to do so until more was known regarding the president's own plans. Great Britain would be guided solely by his wishes.

Most Important Question.

The foreign secretary said he believed the question of a league of nations was the most important work imposed on the conference. "The prominence Mr. Wilson has given the subject is a

valuable contribution to civilization," he declared. "I think a league of nations a vital necessity if this war is to produce all the good we expect to come out of it. The United States would have to bear a large share in the work it involves. It should be something more than a mere instrument to prevent war. The world is more complicated than we are inclined to think. It would be folly to imagine it possible to constitute a world with states endowed with equal powers and rights.

"But I wish to say emphatically, in my opinion to devise in concert workable machinery for them is one of the highest functions the conference can deal with."

"Safe for Democracy"

Referring to President Wilson's phrase, "make the world safe for democracy," Mr. Balfour said, "I do not think the world can be made safe for democracy merely by multiplying the number of democratic states."

Mr. Balfour explained that he was not thinking especially of Germany, but of new states in process of formation in eastern Europe.

"We must assume that when such a system is created in eastern Europe like that, wrong will be impossible. The passions which arise between neighboring democracies make them quite as prone to undertake strife as if under other forms of government. Some critics say that the changes that are being made in eastern Europe will Balkanize Europe, but I look forward to something different. It would be intolerable if Europe and America made no provision against turning Europe into a cock-pit for further wars.

"I believe that a league of nations will be required to superintend and control not only the criminal ambitions of great autocrats but to prevent any rash and inconsiderate countries from going to war. It is impossible to talk about democracy except for countries which have reached a relatively advanced stage of civilization. A league could be trustee for those less developed. Holding this view I regard a league of nations the greatest work of the conference."

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