

FOR BETTER COAST DEFENSE.

CONFERENCE HELD AT HOME OF SECRETARY TO DISCUSS MATTER.

How to Secure Greatest Good from Appropriations is Main Theme of Discussion—No Definite Policy Decided on.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Military preparedness was the subject of an administrative conference tonight at the home of Secretary Garrison. Every feature of the army and navy situation, with particular reference to appropriations for the coming year and the general policy to be followed was discussed. Cabinet officers and members in congress who participated appeared no definite conclusions had been reached.

Attending the conference were Secretary Garrison, Secretary Daniels, Senators Chamberlain and Tillman, chairmen of the senate military and naval committees; Representatives Ray and Padgett, chairmen, respectively, of the house military and naval committees; Representative Sherley, chairman of the house subcommittee of fortification appropriations, and Representative Underwood, majority house leader.

One of the chief purposes of the conference was to devise plans for cooperative action between the executive and legislative departments on military and naval affairs, in making appropriations and carrying out a general programme for increasing the efficiency of the military arm of the government.

On leaving the conference one of the participants said that while no definite plan of procedure had been agreed, every one present had concluded that every possible effort should be exerted in congress to bring the army and navy up to the highest standard of efficiency that could be produced with available resources.

The chief subject of consideration, said Senator Tillman, "was how to do the greatest good for the army and navy without encountering a financial deficit."

Secretary Daniels said the whole military and naval situation had been thoroughly discussed but would not permit details of the conference.

Senator Chamberlain said general discussion had dealt particularly with the financial difficulties of the country.

"Nothing definite," Senator Chamberlain said, "was either discussed or decided upon. It is believed, however, that the bills affecting the military and naval establishment which I have introduced will be pressed in the senate."

These bills include measures to increase the army by 25,000 men and 1,000 officers and to increase the coast artillery corps by 8,000 men.

It developed when the conference was over that all those present had been enjoined to refrain from discussing what came up. Secretary Garrison announced that if there was anything to be said he would say it tomorrow. It is understood that the situation on the Mexican border came in for attention.

BOY TAKES POISON.

Emory Turner Kills Himself at Hartsville.

Hartsville, Jan. 4.—Emory Turner, a young white man 18 years of age, committed suicide here today by drinking poison. The cause of the act is not known. He drank the poison at 12 o'clock and died about 3 o'clock. A few minutes before committing the rash deed young Turner was out on the street and gave no indication of his intentions. His work was that of a brick mason, being employed with his father, M. W. Turner, also a brick mason, who is a resident of Hartsville.

JEALOUS HUSBAND'S REVENGE.

He Kills His Wife, Her Lover and Them Himself.

Akron, Ohio, Jan. 6.—Charles Hydrop, a trainman shot and killed his wife, fatally shot Joseph Schrader, and then committed suicide early today.

ONE KILLED; TWO MISSING.

Morganton, N. C., Jan. 4.—One man was killed, one perhaps fatally injured and two are missing as the result of the overturning of a wrecking derrick on the Southern railway here early today.

The accident occurred while the wrecker was attempting to remove a overturned tank car from the tracks.

Three Up For Gambling.

Three negroes charged with gambling were before the recorder on Thursday. James Fraser, William Currie and Boykin Hill. Currie forfeited a bond of \$15 and Boykin Hill was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$25.00 or serve thirty days. The trial of James Fraser will be held later.

MAY DEFER EXPOSITION CRUISE.

GOETHALS SAYS LANDSLIDE WILL PROBABLY CAUSE DELAY.

Channel Ample for Present Needs, But Can't Insure Passage of World Fleet—Dredges are Kept Busy.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The possibility of a postponement of the cruise of the international fleet from Hampton Roads to San Francisco through the Panama Canal, in connection with the formal opening of the canal and the exposition, was suggested today during a conference between Secretary of War Garrison and Col. Goethals, governor of the Canal Zone.

Though the great earth slides at Cucuracha have apparently been conquered, according to Col. Goethals' report, the earth movements continue in the neighborhood of Gold Hill. At that point the superincumbent masses of earth on the side of the canal are continuously forcing rock and soil in great quantities into the canal prism. The movement is sufficiently extensive to require the continuous employment of dredges to maintain the channel.

While this can be done to meet the needs of the present number and size of the vessels that are applying for passage, Col. Goethals reported that he could not guarantee a channel broad and deep enough for the great dreadnaughts by the date they are expected to arrive at Cristobal next spring.

The mastery of the earth movements at Gold Hill is considered only a question of time, when the earth must find its equilibrium.

As the programme of the fleet from the time it gathers at Hampton Roads to its arrival at San Francisco is prescribed by law, the officials are now considering whether it will be necessary to secure special legislation in case it is decided to abandon or postpone the cruise because of conditions in the canal.

HATTERS' UNION LOSES.

Lowe and Company Get Decision for Quarter of a Million in Supreme Court.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Supreme Court today affirmed judgment for a quarter of a million obtained by Lowe and Co., Danbury hatters, against the members of the Hatters' Union for damages resulting from a boycott of their firm by the union.

MORE TAXES IN 1915.

Collections Fall \$26,000 Behind What They Were Last Year.

The collection of taxes for 1914 has fallen \$26,281.26 behind what it was up to January 1, 1914. However, the postponement of a penalty on unpaid taxes for one month may have something to do with this and it is probable that by the end of January the tax collections will be much nearer what they were for 1913. During 1913 there was collected by the county treasurer up to January 1st, 1914, \$110,359.48, while during 1914 \$84,078.12 were collected to January 1st, 1915.

ROBBERS MAKE GOOD HAUL.

Bank Cashier and Teller Locked in Vault.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 4.—Three men early this afternoon entered the Central Bank and Trust company, of this city, locked the cashier, D. E. Welden, Teller T. E. Hale and a woman stenographer in the bank's vault and escaped with \$3,000. Ten minutes later the three employees were released from the vault. None of the robbers were masked.

PARDON CAME TOO LATE.

Negro Woman on Blease's Clemency List Dead Two Years.

Spartanburg, Jan. 5.—One of Gov. Blease's recent pardons was granted to Anna Drummond, a negress, two years after her death, it developed today when county authorities here received notice of the extension of clemency in her case. The woman was convicted for the murder of her husband nearly three years ago, and died in the county jail soon after she was sentenced to a life term in the State penitentiary.

KILLED ON RAILROAD.

R. G. Sweat of Manatee, Fla., Lost Life at Waycross, Ga.

Waycross, Ga., Jan. 5.—R. G. Sweat, aged 47, was killed by a train last night. He lived at Manatee, Florida.

BANK STATEMENTS CALLED.

Comptroller of the Currency Calls for Report of December 31st.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The comptroller of the currency today issued a call for a report of the conditions of National Banks at the close of business December 31st.

KITCHENER TALKS OF WAR.

BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS GATHERS TO LISTEN TO REVIEW.

Secretary of War Goes Into Details of Operations Throughout Europe—Peers Listen With Rapt Attention.

London, Jan. 6.—The House of Lords met today, a month earlier than the House of Commons, chiefly to hear from Lord Kitchener a review of the military operations for the six weeks since Parliament was prorogued. While the speech of the secretary for war contained little not already known it was listened to with rapt attention by a distinguished gathering.

The peers, as usual, were in their robes of office, but beyond this the scene was lacking in the usual color, for of the long rows of peeresses in the gallery, virtually every one was in mourning for some relative killed at the front.

Lord Kitchener read his speech and referred briefly to the operations in every sphere, laying particular emphasis on the Turkish defeat in the Caucasus, the Austrian defeat in Galicia and what he considered even more important—the "severe check to German aspirations in Poland."

The war secretary spoke of the "noteworthy progress" made by the French east of Rheims and in Southern Alsace, the "extraordinary achievement" of the Servians, which he characterized as one of the "brightest specks in the military operations during December; General Louis Betha's "masterly handling" of the situation in South Africa; the advance of the Indian army in Mesopotamia and successful campaigns in East Africa and Kamerun; the German colony of West Africa.

He paid tribute to the smallest of the Allies, Montenegro, which, he said, "advanced into Bosnia and captured important positions in the face of considerable Austrian opposition."

Of the army which comes directly under his command, the war secretary told of the surprise and reverse suffered by Indians at Givenchy December 20th, when they lost a trench which they afterwards regained and added:

"The British line thus resumed has since then been entirely maintained."

General French's army, said the secretary, has been increased a number of territorial units and another division to which is attached "a fine Canadian regiment."

He expressed satisfaction with the progress of recruiting, which, after the anticipated decrease at Christmas has restored almost to its "former satisfactory level."

Speaking of the anxiety felt at the beginning of the war, at the death of officers, Lord Kitchener declared that all vacancies had been filled and there now was a considerable surplus. Although the training of the men had been carried on under the worst weather conditions, a great deal of extremely good work had been done during the past month, he said.

Before adjournment several lords brought up the question of enemy aliens now interned in England, whom they considered a menace. The Earl of Crewe, speaking for the government, promised to give the subject further consideration.

REGISTRARS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Names of Those Appointed for Sumter County—J. H. Forbes for City.

State Registrar of Vital Statistics and Secretary of the State Board of Health, J. A. Hayne has made the following list of appointments of registrars of vital statistics for Sumter county, according to the terms of the vital statistics act, which was passed by the general assembly at its last session:

The townships, appointees and post-offices, respectively are given below: Sumter, J. H. Forbes, Sumter.

Concord—Manchester—Maysville—Middleton, M. L. Parler, M. D. Wedgefield.

Privateer, S. B. Kolb, Sumter, R. F. D. 2.

Providence, B. McLaughlin, Dalzell. Rafting Creek, W. C. Harlee, Rembert.

Shiloh, S. B. McElveen, Shiloh. Sumter, C. B. Epps, Sumter.

Stateburg—Swimming Pens, W. G. Thomas, Maysville.

The act requires that all deaths and births be reported to the local registrar of vital statistics, the deaths before the body can be removed, and the birth within ten days after it occurs.

J. H. Forbes, city health officer, has been appointed for this city, as seen by the list of appointments, and all births and deaths in the city should be reported to him.

Marriage License Record.

A license to marry has been granted to Mr. W. Levi Gibbs of Lynchburg, and Miss Ola Connors of Olanta.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES.

LITERACY TEST STANDS AND MEASURE IS FAVORED BY VOTE OF 50 TO 7.

Vote Indicates Measure Can be Passed by More Than Two-thirds if Wilson Rejects It—House Leaders Will Probably Ask for Conference on Amendments.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The immigration bill, containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens, passed the senate late today, 50 to 7. The overwhelming majority was recorded despite indications that President Wilson would veto the measure, as did former President Taft, if it should come to him with the educational test included.

The vote indicated that the bill could be repassed by more than the required two-thirds majority should the president reject the measure.

Senators who voted against the bill were Brandegee, McCumber, Martine, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Reed and Walsh.

The bill passed the house last February 241 to 126. Although the senate amended the house bill in several particulars, the literacy test was unaltered save for an additional exemption to Belgian subjects, adopted today after prolonged debate. House leaders probably will ask for a conference on senate amendments Monday, but administration leaders were confident the amendments would be accepted and the bill sent to the president by the middle of next week.

Among senate amendments which house leaders have said probably would be accepted is one to exclude from the United States all persons of the African race or of negro blood. Another strengthens the phraseology of the prohibition of polygamists.

Closing hours of the debate were devoted to an amendment by Senator Lodge to exempt Belgian farmers from the literacy test and from provisions which prohibit Americans from soliciting or inducing immigration. Already American organizations are endeavoring to induce Belgians to settle in this country.

The amendment as finally adopted, 24 to 22, reads:

"That the provisions of this act relating to the illiteracy test, or induced, or assisted immigration, shall not apply to agricultural immigrants from Belgium who come to the United States during the course of the present European war, or within one year after its termination, owing to circumstances or conditions arising through the war, if it is shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner general of immigration that the said Belgian immigrants come with the intention of engaging in agriculture in the United States and to become American citizens."

The amendment precipitated long discussion. Many amendments were offered to include all subjects of belligerents whose homes had been invaded. Senator Poindexter declared other nations would protest under the favored nations' clause of their treaties.

Senator Root, who supported the Lodge amendment, declared it would not violate any treaty obligations. He pictured the Belgians as a people without a country and without a protecting government. Many senators from agricultural States protested against the limitation of the exemption to farmers.

The literacy test as finally approved is virtually as it passed the house. All amendments to enlarge the exemptions to admit persons fleeing from political or racial as well as religious persecution were rejected. The section reads:

"That after four months from the approval of this act, in addition to the aliens who are by law now excluded from admission into the United States, the following persons shall also be excluded from admission thereto, to wit:

"All aliens over 16 years of age, physically capable of reading, who cannot read the English language or some other language or dialect, including Hebrew or Yiddish:

"Provided that any admissible alien may bring in or send for his father or grandfather over 50 years of age, his wife, his mother, his grandmother, or his unmarried or widowed daughter, if otherwise admissible, whether such relative can read or not; and such relative shall be permitted to enter. That for the purpose of ascertaining whether aliens can read the immigrant inspectors shall be furnished with slips of uniform size, prepared under the direction of the Secretary of Labor, each containing not less than thirty nor more than forty words in ordinary use, printed in plainly legible type in some one of the various languages and dialects of immigrants. Each alien may designate the particular language or dialect in which he desires the examination to be made, and shall be required to read the words printed on the slip in such language or dialect.

"That the following classes of persons shall be exempt from the operation of the literacy test, to wit: All aliens who shall prove to the satisfac-

REFUSES SUFFRAGE PETITION.

PRESIDENT DECLINES TO AID SUFFRAGETTES.

Says He is Interested in Subject, but Reiterates His Former Statement That Female Suffrage is a State Issue and Must be Acted on by States.

Washington, Jan. 6.—President Wilson declined today for the sixth time since he entered the White House to support a federal constitutional amendment for woman suffrage. When a delegation of Democratic women, who declared they had helped elect him, presented a plea that he support the proposed amendment he reiterated his previous declaration that he considered suffrage a State issue.

Mrs. George A. Armos, president of the District of Columbia Wilson and Marshall League; Miss Alberta Hill, of New York, and Dr. Frances McGaskin, spokesman for the delegation, reminded the president that the house would vote on the suffrage amendment January 12.

"I am most unaffectedly complimented by this visit that you have paid me," the president told the women. "I have been called on several times to say what my position is on the very important matter that you are so deeply interested in. I want to say that nobody can look on the fight you are making without great admiration, and I certainly am one of those who admire the tenacity and the skill and the address with which you try to promote the matter that you are interested in.

"But I am tied to a conviction which I have had all my life that changes of this sort ought to be brought about State by State: If it were not a matter of female suffrage, if it were a matter of any other things connected with suffrage, I would hold the same opinion. It is a long-standing and deeply matured conviction on my part and, therefore, I would be without excuse to my own constitutional principles if I lent my support to this very important movement for an amendment to the constitution of the United States.

"Frankly, I do not think that this is the wise or the permanent way to build. I know that you perhaps unanimously disagree with me, but you will not think the less of me for being perfectly frank in the avowal of my own convictions on that subject; and certainly that avowal represents no attitude of antagonism, but merely an attitude of principle.

"I want to say again, how much complimented I am by your call and also by the confidence that you have so generously expressed in me. I hope that in some respects I may live to justify that confidence."

Mr. Jeff Williams has connected himself with the firm of the Sumter Motor Co., and will be glad to welcome his friends in his new position.

tion of the proper immigration officers or to the Secretary of Labor that they emigrated from the country of which they were last permanent residents for the purpose of escaping from religious persecutions; all aliens who have been lawfully admitted to the United States and who have resided therein continuously for five years, and who have in accordance with the law declared their intention of becoming citizens of the United States and who return to the United States within six months from the date of their departure therefrom; all aliens who have been lawfully admitted to the United States and who later shall go in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory."

Other features of the bill which change existing law are designed primarily to increase safeguards of health and morale and to protect labor. The head tax on immigrants is increased from \$4 to \$6.

The bill provides as a pecuniary penalty a lien on vessels which violate the proposed regulations. Persons or corporations would be prohibited from importing contract labor or soliciting or inducing the importation of immigrants except that skilled labor, if otherwise admissible, may be imported if labor of like kind employed cannot be found in this country. The question of the necessity for importing such labor is to be determined by the Secretary of Labor.

An amendment submitted by Senator Cummins and accepted provides that the departments of labor and commerce closely observe industrial considerations and notify congress whenever in their opinion expected immigration would materially increase the number of unemployed in the country or reduce the wage standard.

The bill outlines a system of supervision of immigrant ships and also provides for interior immigrant stations to distribute aliens. A provision of the house bill directing that American medical inspectors should be placed on immigrant ships in foreign ports was stricken out after protests from foreign governments.

WITHDRAW BORDER FORCES.

GEN. MAYTORENA DIRECTED TO MOVE AND NOT TO MAKE ATTACK.

Will Make Closer Study of Situation in Various Aspects—Change Will Help Some.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Gutierrez government in Mexico informed the state department today, through the Brazilian minister, that Gen. Maytorena at Naco had been directed to make no attack and to withdraw his forces from the border, "pending a closer study of the situation" in its military and practical aspects.

The note was dated January 4 and was signed by Ortiz Rodriguez, the Gutierrez acting secretary for foreign affairs. It said:

"The government of Mexico, showing the best intention of solving the Naco case in a satisfactory manner, today wired Maytorena to make no attack and to withdraw his forces from the border. As for the time being, the situation is so much relieved, the foreign office at Mexico City will take the time necessary for the purpose of making a study of the case in its military and political aspects to give its final decision. This course will be followed because the acting secretary for foreign affairs is much occupied with reorganizing the office force and in giving attention to important international affairs."

The general understanding in official circles tonight was that the closer study referred to probably would develop in the conference tomorrow or Thursday on the international bridge at El Paso between Brig. Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, and Gen. Francisco Villa, commander-in-chief of the Gutierrez forces.

Latest advices from the convention at Mexico City were summarized tonight in the following from the State department:

"The session of the convention yesterday was devoted to a discussion as to whether it could admit civilians as delegates in representation of military principals, and, if permitted, the extent to which such representation by civilians could be allowed. The convention came to no final decision."

The state department today announced the release of Charles C. Lockhart of Douglas, Ariz., and another American who was arrested and held by Maytorena for some days.

TO CERTIFY NEUTRAL CARGOES.

Treasury Officials Urge Exporters to Cooperate with Government.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Treasury officials today are preparing a circular urging American exporters to cooperate with the government in a plan to certify cargoes of neutral ships. The suggestion has been adopted as the result of a point involved in the protest of the United States to Great Britain against interference with American shipping.

STILL ASKING CHANGE.

Baltimore Financiers Want Federal Bank Shifted.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Baltimore bankers will appear before the federal reserve board tomorrow to protest against the decision of the reserve bank organization committee in locating the federal reserve bank of the Fifth district in Richmond instead of Baltimore.

FOR NEW COIN ISSUE.

House Passes Bill to Commemorate Panama Show.

Washington, Jan. 4.—An issue of coins to commemorate the Panama International exposition would be authorized by a senate bill which passed the house today. It would authorize the coinage of \$50, \$2 1-2 and \$1 gold pieces and 50 cent silver pieces. A part of the issue of gold \$50 pieces would be octagonal like California coins in 1851.

SIX LOST OFF GEORGIA COAST.

Tug Rambler Went Ashore and Crew is Believed to Be Lost.

Frunswick, Ga., Jan. 6.—Six persons are believed to be drowned when the tug Rambler went ashore Monday near the Cumberland light house off St. Andrews sound. The dead bodies of the fireman, Robertson, and cook, Dave Smith, were washed ashore. The missing are Captain Harry Ingram; Engineer Charles Dart; Fishermen Bell and Segui. The Rambler was battered to pieces.

The cotton acreage reduction law is still in full force and effect and there is no probability of its repeal this year consequently all farmers in planning this year's crops should bear in mind that not more than one-third of the total acreage in cultivation, including fall sown grain or other crops, may lawfully be planted in cotton.