

ADMIRAL FAVORS CHARLESTON

EDWARDS URGES NEED OF NAVAL BASE THERE.

Naval Expert Points to Long Coast Line With No Station South of Hatteras and Says Strategy Demands Establishment.

New York, Dec. 8.—The lack of adequate naval stations south of Hatteras as a weakness in the naval establishment of the United States, which, it was declared, "gives our strategists just cause for concern," was discussed here today by Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske and John R. Edwards, both retired, before the meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

They spoke after the reading of a paper by Prof. W. L. Catchcart, a naval consulting engineer of Philadelphia, dealing with the deficiencies of the land end of the country's naval affairs.

"South of Hatteras you have not a crane that will lift a gun out of a turret of a battleship," said Rear Admiral Edwards. "And it is a fact that there is not a place along the coast south of that cape where a battleship could go for repairs in case of crippling in action. Charleston, S. C., would make a splendid base. We need a base at Charleston and one in the gulf to protect the Panama Canal. The great menace to this country is the condition of our shore stations. A base at Charleston would make an enemy extend his line of operations 500 or 600 miles which would take a dozen more capital battleships."

Rear Admiral Fiske said that the American people do not realize their danger any more than does a baby on a railroad track.

Prof. Catchcart said that several of the American naval stations in their defenseless state could be seized with ease if the American fleet were first defeated.

The Caribbean sea for its size, he said, has more strategic positions than any other important expanse of sea on the globe and that for the United States the mastery of the Caribbean in war "is almost vital, since that mastery is the bulwark of our defense of the Monroe doctrine and the Panama canal."

Passing to conditions in the Pacific ocean, Prof. Catchcart said that Guam and Hawaii "would be our Malta and Gibraltar against any enemy sailing from the Far East." And yet Guam has surrendered at the very threshold of the Pacific.

TALK ON COST OF LIVING.

Big Domestic Problem to Be Subject at Conference in Washington.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Governors of the various commonwealths of the United States will meet in conference in this city next week, beginning Thursday and ending Saturday. It has been announced by Miles R. Riley, secretary of the conference. The meeting was to have been held at Salt Lake City last summer, but was delayed by the sending of State troops to the border.

More than half of the governors and 11 of the governors-elect have responded to the call to be present. The high cost of living will be one of the principal topics of discussion.

Gov. R. I. Manning is expected to be present.

SUPPOSED RAIDER ESCAPES.

Warning of Presence Sent Out to Ships.

Hullfax, N. S., Dec. 8.—Entente allied shipping was warned by British naval authorities tonight to be on the lookout for a strange vessel believed to be a raider, which was intercepted on December 2 off the northwestern coast of Scotland and allowed to proceed under the impression that she was the Dutch steamer Gamma.

Later it was learned that the Gamma was at Kirkwall on that date and did not leave until December 3.

The identity of the supposed raider has not been determined. Admiralty officials apparently suspect that, if she is a hostile craft, she may carry mines for dropping off this port, the centre of British naval activity of this continent and the point of departure for Canadian troop ships.

OPPOSED TO TRAINING.

Woman's Peace Party Against Military Art.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The Woman's peace party at its annual meeting here today determined to seek development of physical training for boys in public schools as a substitute for military training. A committee was named to plan a system and women in all parts of the country will be asked to urge it upon local and State school teachers. The party went on record as favoring adoption of the federal woman suffrage amendment.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Secretary Lansing today denied he had any knowledge that Dr. Walter Hines Page intended to resign as ambassador to Great Britain.

MANIPULATORS RAISE PRICES.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE HIGH COST OF LIVING IS DUE TO SPECULATORS.

Investigation of Officials Reveals Information Which Leads Them to This Conclusion—Present Inquiry Centers on Food Products About Chicago.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Information gathered from many sources by government officials conducting the nationwide inquiry into the high cost of living pointed with increasing directness tonight to the conclusion that the soaring prices of certain necessities of life were due, to some extent at least, to the manipulations of combinations of food and other speculators.

These combinations are believed by the government investigators to have been criminal in character, rather spasmodic and rather short lived.

Special attention is being given to alleged price manipulation in the so-called coal corner, which recently sent prices to a panic level in some cities. Whether men who profited most can be punished under federal laws is said to be still undecided. Every federal agency with even a remote relation to the situation was called on today to play its part in the investigation.

With the investigation in its infancy, officials were unwilling to predict tonight where it might lead. The activities of certain men, however, are known to be under surveillance. At the same time officials make clear their conviction that no small part of the rise in prices was due to natural economic causes, including the international balance of trade and the amount of currency in circulation which have a direct bearing on the situation.

United States Attorney Anderson of Boston, in charge of the inquiry, today conferred with officials in the departments of justice, agriculture, commerce and labor, and also conferred with Chairman Meyer of the Interstate commerce commission, with reference to interstate shipments of coal. Mr. Anderson will remain here a day or two and then visit Chicago, where a federal grand jury is conducting an inquiry. He also hopes to visit if possible, western cities.

Present activities of the department's investigation are understood to include inquiry into trade boards, butter and eggs exchanges, produce, sugar, coffee and other food exchanges; it was authoritatively announced have not been investigated.

THE FIGHT ON LIQUOR.

Prohibitionists Plan to Force Legislation Through Congress to Stop Interstate Shipments.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Extensive plans are being made by the "drys" today to force through congress legislation barring intoxicants from interstate commerce. The effect will be two fold if it is successful. It will give the moral force of having congress on record as against liquor traffic and the confinement to each State of the intoxicants manufactured in the State.

LOAN SHARK TRUST.

One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Victims in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—One hundred and sixty thousand persons are in the grip of a powerful loan shark trust according to a report to the public welfare department of Mrs. Luolse Osborne Rowe, investigator, which was made public today. The business is handled by one hundred and thirty-nine agencies and amounts to eleven million, eight hundred thousand dollars annually, according to the report.

CONTROLLED PRICE OF EGGS.

Wetz and Others in Chicago Have Corner on Hen Fruit.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—The result of the federal investigations as announced today, stated that the egg supply of this city has been controlled for the past four months by James Wetz, the "egg king," M. H. Elchingreen, C. B. Rord and Louis Richter. The report stated that several storage warehouse kept two sets of books, fearing investigations, entering actual transactions on one and showing the other to the investigators.

RUSSIANS MAKE GAINS.

German War Office Admits Defeat in Carpathians.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—Russian gains in the Carpathians are admitted by the war office, but it is claimed that the Roumanians were thrown into the utmost confusion by the swift, unexpected blows of the Teutons. The Roumanians were trapped in the mountains northeast of Sinala, and several thousand captured. An immense store of booty was captured, the war office announced.

SMITH FOR COLUMBIA'S CLAIM

WILL DEMAND INFORMATION.

SENATOR AT WHITE HOUSE ON NITRATE MATTER.

Points Out to President Desirability of Columbia for Site of Plant.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator E. D. Smith of South Carolina tonight called at the White House and held an important conference with the president regarding the location of the \$20,000,000 nitrate plant recently authorized by congress.

It is understood that Senator Smith told the president that inasmuch as many phases of the European war are not now as serious as they were when this bill was passed and that in his judgment this plant should be established more from an industrial standpoint than from one of strategy or for purely war purposes. The president was also told that Columbia offers the most excellent advantages for the location of such a plant and that the city could offer not less than 200,000 primary horsepower and more if needed. It was further stated that from a standpoint of transportation facilities Columbia offers a most excellent site as materials may be taken there as cheaply as to almost any other point which might prove satisfactory.

Senator Smith also said that the matter might also be well adjusted if the \$20,000,000 appropriation could be divided into two or three parts to establish one plant at Columbia, another at Muscle Shoals, Ala., and possibly another somewhere else. In this way all the appropriation would not be put into one plant.

It is not yet known what disposition will be made of the matter. Senator Smith made a strong plea for Columbia.

While at the White House Senator Smith also discussed with the president the matter of quarantining against the boll weevil which he will soon bring up in congress. He has received many letters from different parts of the country commending him upon his idea of making an effort to kill off the weevil.

FOOD PRICES DECLINE.

Washington Officials Say Advances From All Sections Show Small Reduction.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The high cost of living has dropped, according to advices from all sections of the country. The reduction, while small, is general. Officials believe it will continue.

MANY PRISONERS TAKEN.

German War Office Reports Captures at Bucharest.

Berlin, Dec. 8.—The capture of eight thousand Roumanian prisoners and twenty-six guns on the Alt river on the same day that Bucharest fell, was reported by the war office today.

NO OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Delay in Advising Russell of Appointment.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Mgr. William T. Russell, a statement of whose appointment as bishop of Charleston was contained in news cablegrams Tuesday, has not yet received his formal notification from the papal consistory. It was first thought that the delay was caused by the censors in England who held up the message for inspection because it was written in cipher. However, this hypothesis has been abandoned, and no satisfactory reason for the unusual delay could be suggested at the parish house of St. Patrick's church today.

TEUTONS REPULSE ATTACKS.

Berlin Reports Failure Attacks Against Germans in East and West. Berlin, Dec. 9.—A fresh series of attacks launched against the Teutons on both sides of the Macedonian front were repulsed, according to the war office.

CARRANZA CAVALRY TRAPPED.

Villa Butchers Enemies, According to Reports.

El Paso, Dec. 9.—Carranzistas cavalry was trapped by Villa near Fresno, and butchered, according to dispatches received today. The Carranza garrison at Chihuahua sent reinforcements and fighting continues.

Smith Urges Fish Station.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The omnibus fish hatchery bill, which passed the house today, includes \$50,000 for a migratory fish station on the South Atlantic coast, in Georgia, North Carolina or South Carolina.

Senator Smith told the Charleston American correspondent tonight that South Carolina would urge her claims when the bill passes the senate.

Artillery Active at Verdun.

Paris, Dec. 9.—Only artillery duelling is reported from the Verdun front.

WANT DEFINITE FACTS UPON WHICH TO BASE ACTION.

America Does Not Wish to Make Mistake as to German Submarine Policy—Sinking of Marina and Arabia Receive Most Careful Consideration from Wilson.

Washington, Dec. 8.—More definite information as to the facts involved in recent activities by German submarines has brought the situation to a point where a new note to Germany designed to clear up any doubt as to the interpretation of the British government's submarine pledges to the United States appears to be among the possibilities of the near future.

President Wilson has given careful attention to the evidence in the cases of several of the vessels recently attacked, but has given no indication of what his decision will be. It was stated positively today that no course had been decided upon but beyond this and a reiteration that the American government had not in any way altered its stand on the submarine question, officials declined to comment.

The cases in the forefront of consideration tonight were those of the British steamers Arabia and Marina, both of which, Germany contends were believed to be transports in the service of the allies. During the day official information reached the state department establishing that the Marina, on which six Americans were lost, was in no sense a transport, and an inquiry was addressed to Great Britain for information as to the actual status of the Arabia.

While administration officials remain silent, those in close touch with affairs in Teutonic diplomatic circles depreciate any suggestion that relations between the two countries are approaching a crisis.

ROCK HILL GETS CONTEST.

Greenwood Made Great Effort for Oratorical Meet, but Could Not Convince Committee.

Greenwood, Dec. 8.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the South Carolina Intercollegiate Oratorical contest held here today it was decided to hold the next contest in Rock Hill. The contest will be held on Friday, April 20. Both Greenwood and Rock Hill made splendid offers for the meeting and it was with difficulty that the executive committee reached a decision. Every male college and university in South Carolina is a member of the association.

The contest was originally held at Greenwood and here it remained for a number of years. In 1912 it was moved to Rock Hill and contests were held there in 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915. It was returned to Greenwood for the 1916 contest and now it goes again to Rock Hill.

Nine South Carolina institutions are members of the association and to win first place in the annual contest is considered one of the highest honors in the intercollegiate field of the State. The members of the association are: University of South Carolina, Erskine, College of Charleston, Furman, Wofford, Clemson, Newberry, Presbyterian College of South Carolina and Citadel. The first place went to Newberry last April here. The year before it was won by Carolina.

EMPEROR IN WAR COUNCIL.

William of Germany and Charles of Austria Discuss Situation with Generals.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—Emperors William of Germany and Charles of Austria, Field Marshalls von Hindenberg and von Hoetzendorff participated in a council of war held at German headquarters today.

LIBERALS SUPPORT NEW CABINET.

Promise to Aid in New Coalition, While Having Confidence in Asquith.

London, Dec. 8.—The Liberalists today adopted a resolution giving their support to the new cabinet in the prosecution of the war and at the same time voted their confidence in Former Premier Asquith.

FRENCH CABINET SHAKY.

Reports Current in Paris That Important Changes are Imminent.

Paris, Dec. 11.—It is reported in political circles today that the resignation of the French cabinet is imminent. It is predicted by the Matin that "the old administrative machinery will be thrown into the melting pot" and that a small war council will be formed, similar to England.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—An embargo on certain foods as a means of reducing the cost of living was advocated in resolutions adopted by the executive committee of the national association of retail grocers today. The matter of boycott was under discussion.

COTTON GINNING TO DEC. 1.

TOTAL AMOUNTS TO 10,359,316 BALES.

South Carolina Credited With 832,141—Entire Country Shows Some Increase.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Cotton ginned to December 1 amounted to 10,359,316 running bales, including 17,602 rounds, and 101,620 bales of sea island, the census bureau today announced.

Last year 9,703,612 running bales including 93,361 round bales and 77,165 bales of sea island were ginned to December 1.

Ginning by States prior to December 1, follows:

Alabama	504,714
Arkansas	999,184
California	19,868
Florida	46,999
Georgia	1,694,398
Louisiana	420,575
Mississippi	726,205
Missouri	51,073
North Carolina	567,136
Oklahoma	743,875
South Carolina	832,141
Tennessee	318,086
Texas	3,404,344
Virginia	23,161
All other States	7,587

PROGRESSIVES WILL NOT UNITE.

Hale Issues Summons to Convention to Put Party on Record for Liberal Campaign.

Washington, Dec. 8.—A call for a conference of those Progressives who are not in sympathy with former leaders of the party "in asking the Republican old guard to give us places on the Republican executive committee" was issued here tonight by Matthew Hale of Massachusetts, as acting chairman of the Progressive national committee. The step follows the overtures made by Raymond Robins, Gifford Pinchot and others at a meeting in Chicago this week for a voice in the management of Republican party affairs.

The Progressive organization committee and members of the old Progressive national committee who have been cooperating with this committee are asked to meet in New York December 15 to arrange plans for the conference, which is to be held in St. Louis during the winter. In his call Mr. Hale says that the liberals of the nation "must organize regardless of their choice for president this fall," and that it is to form a nucleus for such a new and broader liberal organization that the St. Louis conference is called.

GREECE ON THE BRINK.

Three Indications That King Constantine Will Enter War on Side of Germany.

Athens, Dec. 9.—Greek affairs have reached an acute stage. There are growing signs that King Constantine will launch the country into the war on the side of Germany. It is reported that about seventy-five thousand Greek troops have already been secretly mobilized at Thessaly.

VILLA MAKES THREATS.

Bandit Leader Says He Will Drive Americans Out of Mexico.

New York, Dec. 11.—In an interview with Thorkel Flood Mortensen, a foreign journalist, printed in the Evening World, he quotes Villa as saying: "I am going to drive the Americans out of Mexico or make them fight. Gen. Pershing is violating the sacred right of Mexico and has got to get out. I like Wilson, but at Agua Prieta he turned traitor to me. The Columbus raid was easy. I was awake. They were asleep. It took them too long to wake."

VILLA MOVING SOUTH.

Has Cut His Way Fifty Miles South and is Fighting at Bachimba Canyon.

El Paso, Dec. 11.—The Villistas have cut their way fifty miles south of Chihuahua City and are fighting the Carranzistas at Bachimba canyon. Gen. Gzales is reported to be en route to Mexico City.

Historic Trowel Used.

At the laying of the corner stone of the St. Margaret's Home at Charleston, the Rev. John Kershaw, D. D., rector of St. Michael's church conducted the ceremony. In laying the cornerstone the silver trowel which was made for Gen. LaFayette to use at the laying of the corner-stone of the monument erected at Camden to Baron DeKalb was used. Baron DeKalb was killed at Camden during the Revolutionary war and the silver trowel is known as the LaFayette trowel and is the property of the Grand Lodge, A. F. M., of South Carolina, and was loaned to Dr. Kershaw for the occasion.—Camden Chronicle.

HOLDS LIVE STOCK SALE.

LAKE CITY HAS FIRST SUCH AUCTION IN ITS HISTORY.

Cattle in Good Condition Bring Very Satisfactory Sums and Hogs Sell High.

Lake City Dec. 8.—A number of the leading farmers from several miles around brought to Lake City today their surplus hogs and cattle for the purpose of offering them at the first auction sales that have been held here. This is a new thing here and is the result of the activity of some enterprising citizens. The offerings consisted of about 200 hogs and about 250 head of cattle, the cattle in good condition bringing high prices, but those off in condition dragging, while the hogs sold as high as 9 cents per pound on the hoof.

The buyers present were W. R. Saunders, Enoch Smith and A. C. Barber, representing the packers; Howard Cannon of Florence and a few others from nearby places. A number of both hogs and cattle were sold to local farmers for the purpose of stocking their farms.

An interesting talk was made to the crowd present by Fred Hoffman market agent of the extension division of Clemson college and of the United States department of agriculture, along the line of the proper manner of marketing farm products.

Capt. J. H. Blackwell then in an appropriate talk announced that \$150 in prizes would be given away by the Chamber of Commerce to boys entering the pig club, for the purpose of encouraging hog raising.

Representing the Atlantic Coast Line were B. S. Meeks, soliciting agent, and G. A. Cardwell, agricultural agent, and Ervin Davidson, assistant general freight agent, who assured all those present that the railroad would heartily cooperate with the people of this section in the endeavor to make this a permanent stock market.

GRAHAM REMAINS IN COLUMBIA.

Relieved From Duty as Mustering Officer—Will Continue as Inspector Instructor.

Columbia, Dec. 9.—Capt. J. M. Graham, U. S. A., received a telegram from the war department yesterday relieving him from duty as chief mustering officer for the National Guard of South Carolina. He will resume his former position as instructor-inspector of the National Guard in this State. All other regular army officers who served in connection with the mustering out of the First regiment have returned to their home posts. Capt. Graham resides in Columbia.

TO ENACT PRESIDENT'S PLAN.

Wilson's Scheme to Hold up Strikes Pending Arbitration to Become Law.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Administration leaders in congress today declared that the president's plans for suspending railroad strikes and lock-outs pending investigation of causes would be included in the railroad legislative bill and enacted into law. Senator Newlands asserted with confidence that the plan outlined would succeed in congress.

Food officials place the responsibility for the drop on the announcement that the government will criminally prosecute the food price manipulators.

Recital at Bethel School.

The music pupils of Miss Beatrice Sumter at the Bethel school with the assistance of Miss Clara Childs, gave a delightful recital on the evening of December 8th. Misses Annie Kolb, Estelle Geddings and Inez Brunson, whose names are not on this program are also members of the class. Quite a number of people gathered for the occasion and enjoyed the following program:

Piano Solo—Mrs. Virgil, Master S. A. Harvin.

Schubert's Serenade—Miss Rhett Wells.

Reading—Miss Childs.

To The Play ground—Margstein—Misses Lucile and Mary White Nettles.

Impromptu, Op. 26—Miss Sumter.

Ill-trovatore—Verdi—Miss May Haynsworth.

Trio—Misses Ruth, Lucy and Christine Kolb.

The Fairy Waltz—Pridham—Miss Mary White Nettles.

The Witches Dance—McDowell—Miss Sumter.

Home Again—Hartung—Miss Lucile Nettles.

The Peacock—Spaulding—Miss Lucila Harvin.

Reading—Miss Childs.

Fanfare, from William Tell—Misses Wells and Haynsworth.

Alvin Burns, a son of Mr. W. B. Burns of Sumter, has been the almost unanimous choice of North Carolina coaches for the position of fullback on a North Carolina State football team. Burns played fullback on the Davidson team during the season,