

'LOSS' OF NAVAL
PLAN IS GREAT
WAR MYSTERY

Patriot Carried Only Copy of
Secret Document to Grave,
Is Theory.

TEUTONS DID NOT GET IT

The war plan that was lost—
"Problem solution, Black," dealing
with naval tactics against Germany
in Atlantic vanishes—Did Germans
steal our secrets or were they good
guessers?—Probable solution of mys-
tery.

By JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

Former Secretary of Navy—1913-21.

ARTICLE 23.

What became of the lost Black
plan is still a mystery. Made out by
the general board, guarded with the
greatest care, handled by the proper
authorities, it was carried into effect
and then it vanished utterly.

The discovery that one of our se-
cret naval plans was missing came
when it was too late to have any ef-
fect on the situation. But that did
not prevent the newspapers making
the most of the sensation, especially
such as, for political reasons, had it
in for the Navy Department.

They would never have heard it was
missing, nor would we have known it was
missing, had we not looked it up for the
purpose of proving to certain clamorous
critics that we had not gone to war with
our plans. Long ago we had lost our
plans, as I have said, we supposed, had
they been filed away with thousands of
other documents for purposes of record.
But there we were wrong. The plan had
not been filed away, nor could any trace
of it be found. To this day it has not
been found.

And it was an important plan—at the
time it was used. It was a plan of vital
importance.

DEFINITION OF
"BLACK PLAN."

The Navy for many years has had a
set of plans to cover possible situations
which might develop in the Atlantic, the
Pacific, the Caribbean Sea or other open
waters. These plans originated with the
general board, of which Admiral Dewey
was chairman until his death in January,
1917, and were kept up-to-date by frequent
revision.

The plan dealing with possible hostilities
in the Atlantic was known as the
"Black Plan." In February, 1917, in its
revised and up-to-the-minute form, it
dealt, of course, with the probability of
war with Germany.

On Feb. 4, the day after Bernstorff was
dismissed, the general board had recom-
mended in detail the principal steps to
be taken in case of war with the central
powers—mobilization of the fleet, naval
districts and auxiliary vessels; large in-
crease of naval patrols; and mines to guard
home waters against submarines, arming
of merchant ships, and other measures,
and, "most important, arrange, as soon as
possible, plans of cooperation with the
naval forces of the allies for the joint
protection of trans-Atlantic commerce
and for offensive naval operations against
the common enemy."

FRAMING STRATEGY
AND WAR POLICY.

The general war plan was compre-
hensive; special recommendations had
been made to the various steps we
should take. But I wanted also a def-
inite statement that in the event of a
general policy we should pursue upon
the declaration of war. These studies are
called "problems," and on Feb. 10 I ad-
dressed this letter to the general board:
Feb. 10, 1917.

To: The General Board,
Subject: Solution of Problem.

1. The department desires the general
board to consider the following problem
and submit its solution as soon as practicable:

PROBLEM

General Situation—Conditions as at
present—That war with Germany is declared.

Special Situation—The allies do not
desire our battlefront at present.

Required—Naval estimate of the
situation:

First, as to the grand strategy de-
manded by the situation.

Second, as to disposition of battle-
fronts.

Third, as to the method of assisting
in maintaining communications with
Europe, including scheme for
cooperation with allies.

Fourth, as to the methods of driv-
ing submarines from the sea.

Assume—Mobilization of all naval
vessels and possibility of mobilizing
merchant vessels as required.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

The board made a careful study of the
situation, and a week later made a
report covering all the matters set forth,
and it is filed with the following
note of transmittal:

DANIELS ADVISED

PROBLEM IS SOLVED.

General Board, Navy Department,
Washington, Feb. 17, 1917.

To: Secretary of the Navy,
Subject: Solution of Problem, Black
Reference (a) Navy Department
Confidential Letter of Feb. 10, 1917.

1. In accordance with reference (a)
the general board submits herewith
problem and solution based upon the
general and special situations de-
scribed in the Navy Department's
instructions.

CHARLES J. BADGER.

Such care was taken to keep this doc-
ument from anyone except the secretary
and the office of naval operations that
even the general board retained no du-
plicate of it. After it was submitted to
me for approval, it was turned over to
the chief of naval operations; all plans
that had been approved were in their
custody. They were familiar with their
provisions as drafted the necessary
orders for carrying them into effect. But
plans were carefully safeguarded that
only the directly concerned were al-
lowed to see them.

And yet, in spite of all our precautions,
the document containing the gen-

(Continued on Page Five.)

Indiana Daily Times

INDIANAPOLIS, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1921.

CITY GAS RATE HIKE TO 90 CENTS

J. McNamara Passes Out of San Quentin Tuesday

Convicted Dynamiter Plans to Start Life
Anew—May Resume Union Work.

SAN QUENTIN PENITENTIARY,
Cal., May 7.—On Tuesday, May 10, John
McNamara, convicted of a felony in con-
nection with the dynamiting of the Los
Angeles Times on Oct. 1, 1910, will check
out through the great doors of the San
Quentin prison for the last time. On
that day his sentence will be completed.

"The first thing I'll do when I get out
of here will be to go to San Francisco,
see my friends and make arrangements
to go to Ohio to visit the various mem-
bers of the family who live in Cleveland
and Cincinnati," he stated in an exclu-
sive interview today.

"Then comes the problem of readjust-
ment after being out of the world for
ten years.

WOULD CONTINUE
UNION ACTIVITY.

"At the time of my trial I was inter-
national secretary of the Bridge and
Structural Iron Workers' Union. I am
still a member of the union and in good
standing.

"I will continue with that work
when I get out, though it is neces-
sarily dependent on what conditions are
as I find them on my release.

"I have managed to keep more or less
abreast of the times during my impris-
onment, but I fear I won't know how to
act when I step off the ferry in San
Francisco.

"Though I have been out of the world
for ten years I think I'm still a man
capable of taking care of myself."

There was a pause.

"And will you be glad to get out?" he
was asked.

"That's what has been keeping me
alive, thinking of the day when I would
again be free, when I would be off to my
own way," the man in prison gray replied.

"One hears so much—and the press
is the keynotes of the world—about
what is going on outside that after an
active life, a prison term is almost an
intellectual death," he added.

"STRIKE IS KEYNOTE
OF WORLD REFRAIN."

"We hear so much now of wars and
rumors of wars that it is almost appalling
to think of facing the age old conflict of
man and his brother.

"With labor troubles paramount in this
country, I don't see the strike is the

keynote of the world," he said.

Originally sentenced to 50 years, he was
granted a parole after serving

ten years, part in San Quentin and a few
months in the county jail in Los
Angeles. Good behavior and strict com-
pliance with all rules earned the respite.

His brother, James McNamara, was sen-
tenced to life imprisonment for his
part in the dynamiting of the Los
Angeles Times.

McNamara was granted a parole after
serving 10 years, part in San Quentin and a few
months in the county jail in Los
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pliance with all rules earned the respite.

Union labor leaders in San Francisco
who know McNamara are planning a
welcome for him on the day he is re-
leased.

JOE CANNON, 85 YEARS 'YOUNG,' IS 'CELEBRATING' IT

Forgetful of Number Stogies
He Has Smoked in Veteran
Service.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Uncle "Joe
Cannon holder of all "marathon" records
for congressional service, is 85 years old
today. He is the oldest member of Congress,
both in years and point of service.

The veteran legislator celebrated his
birthday by working with the House ap-
propriations committee on the deficiency
bill. Although the House was not in
session, scores of friends called at his
office to extend congratulations.

"Well the calendar says I am 85, but
you will have to subtract a good many
years if you want to know how I feel."
He said, as he puffed one of his famous
black stogies.

"I can still show some of these new
members a few tricks."

One of his birthday presents was a
box of the famous stogies.

"How many stogies have you smoked?"
he was asked.

"Well, the figures probably would re-
semble some of these appropriations we
have been passing recently," he re-
plied as he pulled another one from his
pocket.

"Got a match?"

DISARMAMENT MOVE PROBABLE

U. S. With Representatives on
Supreme Council, in Po-
sition to Act.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—President
Harding, having accepted the invitation
to put representatives on the allied su-
preme council ambassadors' conference and
reparations commission was in a po-
sition today to inaugurate a disarma-
ment movement among the powers.

It is believed that Harding is consid-
ering a tentative plan for starting such
a movement as the Ambassadors' Conference
which will sit with the allied sup-
reme council. The other American rep-
resentative will be Ambassador Herrick
at Paris, who will sit with the ambassa-
dors' conference, and Roland W. Boy-
den, who will attend meetings of the
reparations commission.

BEST DICTAPHONE
PILOT ON MRS. STILLMAN.

An alleged attempt to "plant" a
dictaphone in the bedroom or writing
room of Mrs. Stillman at Malbanne, the
Stillman home at Pocantico Hills, was
revealed today.

THE most important immediate tasks
confronting the American representatives

are:

1. Settlement of the reparations ques-
tion without prostrating Germany eco-
nomically.

2. Securing recognition of American
rights in disposition of former enemy
territories, such as the Island of Yap
and the Mesopotamian oil fields.

A WONDERFUL BIT OF NEW ZEALAND COUNTRY



WEATHER

Forecast for Indianapolis and vicinity
for the twenty-four hours ending 7 p.m.
May 8: Partly cloudy tonight, becoming
unsettled with showers Sunday; Moderate.

HOURLY TEMPERATURE.

6 a. m. 52
7 a. m. 54
8 a. m. 56
9 a. m. 59
10 a. m. 63
11 a. m. 67
12 (noon) 66
1 p. m. 69
2 p. m. 70

118 INDICTED BY FEDERAL JURY BEFORE JUDGE

Muncie Ponzi' and Goshen
Furniture Men Among Not
Guilty Pleaders.

OLD CASES DISPOSED OF

One hundred eighteen defendants
indicted by the Federal grand jury
at its recent session were arraigned
before Judge Ferdinand A. Geiger
in Federal Court here today. In all
cases where pleas of guilty were en-
tered sentence was imposed and the
cases disposed of. Judge Geiger also
disposed of a number of other cases
that have been held in abeyance for
several weeks.

As was expected all defendants
and their cases will be set for trial at
a later date. This was the case with
Alberta L. Holaday, "Muncie Ponzi,"
charged with using the mails in a
scheme to defraud, and also Benjamin
F. Deahl of Goshen, prominent busi-
ness man, lawyer and president of the
I-X-L Furniture Company of that city;
Deahl was charged with perjury.

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