

NAVAL PROGRESS GIVEN APPROVAL BY CONGRESSMEN

Number of Capital Ships to be Reduced From 16 to 10 For Three Years.

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Unanimous approval of the administration's new three-year naval program, with the number of capital ships reduced from 16 to 10 because of differences among experts over the value of battle cruisers, was voted today by the house naval committee.

The program is for the three years beginning with next July. Chairman Padgett, in announcing the committee's action, said the annual appropriation bill carrying \$750,000,000 was approved, including \$150,000,000 to be spent during the year under the new program.

The committee's action was the first formal indication of the attitude of congress toward the navy department's policy of expansion unless the peace conference decides on world disarmament. Expansion has been urged by Secretary Daniels and high officers of the navy.

FUTURE SAFETY

(Continued From Page One.)

that the French, after four invasions in a century are resolved that if there is a fifth invasion it shall begin at the Rhine and not at the Moselle or the Sambre; that the opening phase of a new German aggression shall take place in German and not French territory. If the league of nations shall become a world force that many hope, these precautions will prove unnecessary. If it fails these precautions will stand, and with four invasions in their minds it is difficult to criticize the French purpose.

Now, in addition, there is the question of the Saar Coal district. I have frequently described this question to my readers, but I revert to it again to complete the statement of the French policy. The region itself is a very restricted area, two or three hundred square miles at most. It produces some seventeen million tons of coal a year.

It belonged to France wholly up to 1814, but even after the first abdication of Napoleon a portion still remained to France, and it was not until after Waterloo that Prussia had her way and seized the whole coal district, just as she took the iron district in 1871.

Wreck Whole District.

Argument for the Saar coal district is not based merely or mainly upon ancient title. Last year when the Germans found they were not going to be able permanently to hold the French coal district of Lens, they systematically and completely wrecked mines and machinery, they dynamited houses, and they transformed the whole district into an almost hopeless desert.

Their purpose was to make France dependent upon Germany for coal, to cripple French industry to the profit of Germany; and if the treaty of Paris fails to award France compensation in the shape of coal, the German object will have been achieved.

France asks therefore the frontiers of 1814, rather than those of 1870, as an act of justice, both because of ancient stealing and of contemporary destruction, and so far as I know there is no criticism of her purpose among the British or among Americans in France.

Not Imperialistic

So much for the European phase of the French purpose. I repeat that they do not think of imperialistic purposes. They are anxious to prevent a repetition of the past. It is very hard to give to Americans who have lived in peace and with no accurate picture of devastated France, real understanding of French emotion at the present time. France has just escaped a terrible disaster which would have meant approximate national destruction.

For nearly half a century the French people have existed under the shadow of German threat. It still seems only yesterday that German shells were falling in Paris, and the sky was lighted at night with the flares of German guns. It is only a few months since the arrival of German troops in Paris was believed inevitable. The greatest apprehension is over, but not easily so men and women forget perils so recent, which are again only repetitions of past history.

It is this element which influences French idealism and French aspiration at the present hour. It is this grim fact that compels the mass of thoughtful Frenchmen to examine the League of Nations with suspicion which is easily interpreted as hostility, which it is not.

Cannot Afford Gamble

The rest of the world can well afford to gamble in the matter of the League of Nations. The French cannot afford to take any chance, and the limitations imposed upon them by their recent history and by all their history are easily translated into a reversal of Chauvinism, thereby doing France very great injustice.

Turning now to the French view of questions outside of Europe, much is to be heard in Paris today as to French designs upon Syria. The situation is complicated. Before America came into the war, France and England had mutually agreed upon a division of that part of the Turkish empire between the Gulf of Alexandria and Suez.

In this division there was allotted to France the region of which Beyrouth is the port and Damascus the most considerable city. Included in it

naturally was Leganon. Those who know the near east know that this has been for centuries a field of French culture and French influence, and in a sense of cultural propaganda. In this region France has a considerable economic interest, including most of the railways.

Under the new dispensation which undertakes to recognize the desires of various nationalities, it is now urged not without force that Syria should be permitted to constitute itself into a separate state of the elect to become a portion of the somewhat imaginary kingdom of Hedjaz. In fact, it is argued that France should resign all claims to Syria, and it is urged that any failure of France to make such sacrifices convicts the French of old-fashioned Colonial Imperialism.

Claim is Sentimental.

The claim of France to Syria is sentimental, as well as economic, but such information as I can gather leads me to believe that however strongly official France reviews French claims the Syrian question will not be permitted to break up concord between the various nations, and I am convinced that the French people would not support a military expedition to conquer Syria, nor a political quarrel with their present allies over Syria.

There is a very considerable possibility that the Syrians themselves, left to themselves, in part, at least, might elect a French protectorate of a vague sort, wholly different from military occupation, and if this should happen, I think the French people would understand that the will of the Syrian people should be recognized; but so far as an aggressive colonial campaign for Syria is concerned, I do not think it will take place.

The question of the African colonies of Germany is not as vitally interesting to the French as it is to the British. France, under her arrangement with Great Britain, would normally receive part of Togo and all of Cameroons, but it is my judgment that the French are vastly less concerned over the possible return to Germany of Central African colonies than are the British, for whom German West Africa is a menace to the union of South Africa, and German East Africa is a standing threat on the road to India.

Want to Purchase.

In the same way there is a pronounced French desire to see the Spanish evicted from North Africa, where their precarious position in Morocco is as much alike to Spain and to France, a source of endless expense, and no benefit; but here again French purpose is expressed in the desire to purchase what Spain cannot administer, as we purchased the Philippines from the same nation.

Such in brief is a summary of the French view of the peace conference, so far as it concerns material things. I wish I could emphasize the fact that the mood of France in insisting upon material as well as physical guarantees against German aggression is the inevitable consequence of the last four years. In her ruined cities, her desolate fields, her suffering population, France sees a threat of new France.

For her greatest task is to make the supreme tragedy unlikely again. She does not seek to occupy the left bank of the Rhine. She does strive to provide that a new German invasion shall start at the Rhine and not across it, in the very heart of her own and France is Determined.

No other one of the nations has the same concerns, since no other one of the great nations has endured the same agonies. France at the conference asks the nations that more or less tardily recognized that their fate was linked up with her, to join her in taking material and physical guarantees against a return of the barbarian.

To some Americans, this seems chauvinistic. To others, it seems an incredible thing that the French hesitate to accept the moral assurance held out by the League of Nations, and display apprehension that what happened recently may happen again; but this is an act of faith beyond the power of the French people.

They hope, but they do not believe—because all other guarantees of peace have proved inadequate—that the League of Nations will finally close the avenues of invasion to the North; but they believe that in so far as they can, it is their duty to their country and to the future to bar those avenues, material as well as moral.

Frank Strayer Opens New Law Offices in City

New law offices have been opened over 718 West Main street by Frank Strayer, former prosecuting attorney. Strayer resigned the position to enlist in the navy and was subsequently sent to France.

ALMOST DIED FROM STOMACH TROUBLE

Mr. Campbell lost 66 pounds. Regained it, and tells how he got well.

"Before I started taking Milks Emulsion, the doctor told me it wasn't any use, for I was going to die. But if you could see me now, you would think that there had ever been anything like the matter with me. I was in bed, flat on my back, when I commenced taking Milks Emulsion. I had lost 66 pounds. I have regained my health and strength. I don't look like a lame mule, as I did three years ago. I wish you could see what it has done for me and my family."—W. Z. Campbell, Carey, Ohio.

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"TOP O' THE WORLD"



CHESTER HARRIS IN SIX BATTLES

Chester C. Harris has written his mother, Mrs. Belle Harris, that he took part in six battles, and was wounded in the battle of Argonne. He is greatly improved now and is able to be with his outfit which is stationed in Pieden, Germany. His letter was dated January 1.

CIVIL WAR VETERAN.

OXFORD, O., Feb. 1.—Word was received here last evening that Capt. Severin Nesselhauf, aged 78 years, prominent retired merchant tailor and Civil War veteran, had died suddenly of heart disease while on a visit with relatives in Detroit, Mich. Capt. Nesselhauf was also prominent in Odd Fellow circles. The body will be brought here for burial.

Day Nursery in Need of Jellies for Children

The Day Nursery is badly in need of jellies and "spreads" of all kinds for the children. Any contributions of this kind will be enjoyed by the "kids."

Silk is so cheap in Madagascar that the poorest people can afford to wear it.

AID TO BE SENT TO CLEVELAND

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 1.—Having practically completed the slaughter of the advantageous bargain through which the state was to secure an executive mansion at low cost, the General Assembly adjourned yesterday, leaving the matter in the hands of a conference committee probably hostile to the original Jones bill.

Its only other work was to rush through an emergency measure which will enable the state to help Cleveland maintain order in the manner in which Cleveland wishes it maintained.

The wholesale grocers and extract manufacturers will be given a hearing next Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, while on Wednesday at 9 o'clock, the wholesale druggists and other interests desiring to be heard, have been invited to appear.

Members of all the committees have reached an agreement that the bond feature of the bill, to which the retail druggists objected, will be eliminated in all instances where a federal bond is required, and that instead a nominal fee for the issuance of permits will be required. This, it is expected, will result in an annual revenue of approximately \$2,000, which will go toward paying the expenses of the enforced machinery. It is understood other objectionable features of the bill are to be toned down to meet the protests of the interests affected.

Although the Senate Committee on Health has recommended for passage the bill permitting Christian Science "healers" to charge fees for services, action in the senate will be deferred until after a hearing before the House Committee on Health on a similar bill introduced into the house, which has

been set for next Wednesday evening at 7. The Senate committee has been invited to attend the hearing.

Earhart Given \$19,000 by Emma Mather Will

Earhart college Friday received a bequest of \$19,000 from the will of Mrs. Emma Mather, filed for probate Friday afternoon.

The Mather estate was valued at about \$25,000, of which about \$16,000 was left to relatives, the remainder going to Earhart.

Girl Scouts Will Hold Meeting on Monday

All Girl Scouts have been requested to be at the headquarters at 4 o'clock Monday evening to consider some business of importance.

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