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## SIMS READING OF TESTIMONY IS FINISHED

Admiral Completes Reading of Long Prepared Statement—Charges 13 Separate Cases of Costly Mistake.

## NAVY WAS NOT READY

(By Associated Press)  
WASHINGTON, March 18.—Approaching the conclusion of his long assignment of the navy department's conduct of the war, Rear Admiral Sims laid before the senate investigating committee today, 13 specific counts in his indictment, charging mistakes and costly delays.

Reitering his declaration that his criticisms were aimed at no individual but that "responsibility for any failures" rested upon "the navy department as an organization," Admiral Sims said:

"If I have shown that there was lack of conviction or clear understanding on the part of the navy department as to where its efforts should be directed; if I have shown that the navy was hampered by a lack of preparedness, by lack of essential plans, and by being held back in the beginning; if I have demonstrated that victory was not won because of the errors but in spite of them, and that such errors were only nullified by a combination of circumstances which we would be foolishly indeed to count upon in the future—then I will feel that I have been fully justified in submitting my letter to Secretary Daniels of January 7."

### Blame Must Be Placed.

If any individual was responsible, Admiral Sims said, the fact would necessarily have to be developed by persons who knew the "inner workings" of the department during the war.

The admiral's summary of his charges follow: "That, in spite of the fact that war had been going on for nearly three years, and our entry into it had been imminent at least from Feb. 2, 1917, the vessels of the navy were not ready for war service when the United States entered."

"That the first few months after America entered the war were extremely critical ones for the whole allied cause, due to the success of enemy submarines."

"That this critical situation was made clear to the navy department a few days after America entered the war, and repeatedly thereafter by cables and letters, supported by independent advice to the government from the American ambassador in London and by Mr. Hoover."

### No Plans for Three Months

"That the navy department supplied me with no plans or policy covering our participation in the war for three months after our entry therein."

"That, having information as to the critical situation of the allies, the navy department did not promptly assist them, and thereby prolonged the war by delaying the sending of anti-submarine vessels, none reaching Europe for nearly a month after war was declared, and 2 1/2 months elapsing before thirty vessels arrived."

"That the navy department failed to appreciate the military value of time."

"That the navy department violated fundamental military principles in a temptation to formulate war plans of operation without having sufficient knowledge of the whole situation."

Lacked Liaison With Allies

"That the department's representation with the allied admiralties was not supported, during the most critical months of the war, either by adequate personnel or by adequate forces that could have been supplied."

## Grand Duchess Olga, Sister of Late Czar, is Found in Rags; Helping Poor

(By Associated Press)  
WASHINGTON, March 18.—Grand Duchess Olga, sister of the late Czar Nicholas of Russia, has been found by American Red Cross workers, living in a box car near Novorossiysk, South Russia. It was announced today at the headquarters of the American Red Cross here.

The Grand Duchess, according to the announcement, is one of three surviving members of the house of Romanoff. She was found "telling among fellow refugees from the territory recently conquered by the Bolsheviks, *private assistance* as she could, although herself clad in rags, and grateful for any food and clothing she could find."

## BOLIVIA EXPRESSES REGRETS FOR ATTACK

(By Associated Press)  
WASHINGTON, March 18.—The American government today asked Chile, as one of the great and powerful nations of South America to use its strong influence to prevent serious difficulties between Bolivia and Peru. The request was conveyed by under secretary Polk to Beltran Mathieu, the Chilean ambassador, at a conference at the state department.

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### Biggest Crowd of Season Expected to See Rouskaya

With only a small portion of two seat sections remaining unsold, one of the largest crowds of the season is promised for the concert to be given by the Yeskes Jazairimba band and Columbia Saxophone sextette, with Baroness Noska Rouskaya, at the Coliseum Thursday evening. The concert will begin at 8:15 p. m.

Of late the saxophone has been growing so fast in popularity that the study of it is being taken up all over the country. But it is far from an easy instrument to play, and it is no light task to assemble a body of players competent to appear to a public audience for worthwhile music.

In fact, in order to gather together an organization such as the Columbia Saxophone sextette, it was necessary to try out over 60 different players, not only from this country but from Europe, too, before it was possible to choose the very best of all saxophone players and from them into the present splendid sextette.

### County Has Most Cash in History, Claim Assessors

There is more ready cash in Wayne county this year than there has been for a number of years past, according to reports being made to assessors by taxpayers. Assessors say they never before knew the taxpayers to list such sums of money.

"I do not know whether these unprecedented amounts of money will continue to appear through the assessing season or not," said that official, "but if they do the amount of cash listed in Wayne county will be from three to four times as much as has usually been listed heretofore."

It goes to prove that the prediction of the state tax board was correct—that with the listing of all property at its true cash value the taxpayers would list their ready money the same as their other personal property and pay taxes on it.

### FORT WAYNE NEWS PUBLISHER SUCCUMBS

FORT WAYNE, Ind., March 18.—Clarence E. Bicknell, president of the News Publishing company and publisher of the Fort Wayne News and Sentinel, died at a hospital here early today, following an illness of several weeks. He was 55 years old.

## U. S. HAS GREATEST NAVY PROGRAM OF WORLD'S NATIONS

(By Associated Press)  
WASHINGTON, March 18.—The United States, American naval experts say, is building more warship tonnage than any other nation.

Twelve superdreadnaughts and six big battle cruisers, aggregating 665,400 tons, are under construction in private and navy yards. They will carry a total of 152 16-inch rifles, and 24 14-inch rifles, and all will have the new electric drive engines.

With the completion of this fleet, probably in 1923, the United States will have a battle force of 19 superdreadnaughts and six battle cruisers in the first line, and eight dreadnaughts and a number of smaller battleships in the second line.

American naval men say that among the world's fighting craft, the six battle cruisers and six of the new battleships—the South Dakota, Montana, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Indiana and Iowa—will be in a class by themselves.

To Go 37 Miles an Hour.

The cruisers will have a speed of about 33 knots—37 land miles—and each will carry eight 16-inch guns.

They will be 874 feet long over all, 96 feet wide, will displace 33,500 tons and have 180,000 horsepower.

The six super dreadnaughts will be even more powerful, each mounting its main battery, 12 sixteen-inch rifles. They will be 684 feet long, 106 feet broad and displace 42,200 tons. Their speed will be 23 knots an hour and have horsepower 60,000.

These ships and battle cruisers are just being gotten under way, but most of the other six battleships are well on the way to completion.

## BEHNNEN DROPS DEAD IN FIELDS

William Behnken, who lives on the New Paris pike adjoining the Richmond Water Works, suddenly dropped dead while tilling his fields at 2 p. m. Tuesday.

His son was assisting him and when the father fell he ran to the phone at the water works and summoned a physician. Coroner S. Edgar Bond investigated.

Mr. Behnken was 53 years old, and had lived on the same farm for 25 years. The widow and six children survive. The cause of the death was thought to be apoplexy.

## Board of Works Delays Action on Light Issue

No definite date for the proposed joint meeting of city councilmen, manufacturers and other city officials to discuss thoroughly the recommendation of Superintendent Dillon, of the light plant, for a \$20,000 bond issue to purchase additional equipment for the plant, was set by the board of works Thursday.

The matter was referred to the board by council. Members of the board stated that they wished to withhold action until they had had more time to investigate conditions relative to the bond issue.

Awarding of contracts for 500 feet of rubber hose for the fire department was made. The Boston Woven Hose and Rubber company was given the contract for 200 feet at \$1.35 per foot; the Gutta Percha Rubber Manufacturing company received a contract for 200 feet at \$1.30 per foot and the Bi-Lateral Fire Hose company was awarded a contract for 190 feet at \$1.40 per foot.

A petition for the construction of a cement road and gutter and the paving of the roadway from North Third to North Second streets from North A street to the C. & O. tracks, was filed. The Kleffhoft-Nieuwehoven company and the Swayne Robinson company were the petitioners. The petition was referred to the city engineer for plans and specifications.

## Declarations are Filed by Candidates in County

Declarations were filed with the county clerk by four candidates for delegate to the state convention and by four precinct committeemen can didates.

C. O. Williams, 104 Southwest First street, Republican, filed his declaration as candidate for delegate to the state convention from the Seventh ward, and James E. Fry, Richmond, and J. P. Dillon, 808 South A street, both filed declarations as Republican candidates for state convention delegate from the Fourth ward. Theodore Davis, of Greensfork, Democrat, filed his declaration as a candidate for delegate to the Democratic state convention from Center and Clay townships.

The precinct committeemen, all Republicans, who filed were Oliver C. Hunt, Franklin township, precinct 2; Franklin; L. C. Engelbert, 828 North Tenth street, precinct 15; Wayne; Benjamin F. Connelly, Washington township, precinct 3; Washington, and Ross M. Cramer, Harrison township, precinct 1, Harrison.

Mr. Williams, a member of the county committee, all Republicans, who filed were Oliver C. Hunt, Franklin township, precinct 2; Franklin; L. C. Engelbert, 828 North Tenth street, precinct 15; Wayne; Benjamin F. Connelly, Washington township, precinct 3; Washington, and Ross M. Cramer, Harrison township, precinct 1, Harrison.

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## Cen'rville Mandate Suit Will be Argued April 8

Conclusion of the testimony in the mandate suit of the town of Centerville against the T. H. I. & E. Traction company was reached in the circuit court late Wednesday afternoon. Argument has been set for April 8.

Centerville seeks to have the traction company reroute its tracks temporarily so that the completion of the paving of the main street may be made.

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## BIRDS FLY AS SHERIFF LEAVES; FINDS JAIL EMPTY

STEUBENVILLE, O., March 18.—Sheriff W. T. Baker awoke this morning to find the county jail empty. Some time after midnight, the eight prisoners all held on various charges, sawed and cut their way to liberty. Searchers failed to find trace of them.

## May 1 May Be Named American Day for City

A letter received by Mayor Zimmerman from the National Security League of New York city, relative to a May 1 celebration advocating Americanism was referred to him for action by the board of works Thursday.

The board will concur with whatever action the mayor takes. A proclamation may be issued making the day a holiday, and that a parade and other demonstrations will be held.

## FLAT TAX MAY BE PUT ON ALL INCOME; PLANS WORKED OUT

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Treasury officials were called today to present the department's views to the house ways and means committee on raising federal revenues to meet losses as a result of the decision of the supreme court that stock dividends are not taxable.

The committee is also expected to discuss simplifications of present income and excess profits tax laws, proposed by Secretary Houston in a letter to the committee yesterday.

Joseph S. McCoy, government actuary, and Wayne Johnson, solicitor of international revenue were to present the department's plans and to answer questions as to the best solution of the problems presented by the court decision.

### Would Repeal Exemptions

Chairman Fordney was expected to present to the committee a plan calling for a flat tax on all profits or incomes, with the same percentage on large and small incomes and providing for the repeal of the \$2,000 exemption provision.

Under such a plan it is stated, the rate of taxation would be reduced from the present rate of 22 per cent to approximately 17 per cent.

Democratic members of the committee, however, oppose such a plan on the grounds that it shifts the burden of taxation from large incomes to the smaller ones.

## WASHINGTON SEES SOVIET MENACE IN NEWS FROM BERLIN

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The collapse of the military revolution in Germany in the opinion of officials here, has left the Ebert government with an even greater problem on its hands, that of controlling the workingmen's movement, started to checkmate the revolutionaries.

Reports of the formation of soviets in a number of places have been received, and while the exact extent of this movement is not known, some observers here feel that the general strike may prove a double edged sword.

Official Washington is discussing how far the alleys should go in lending moral support to the Ebert government at this time, and, because of the present state of the public mind, in pressing demands for the punishment of those guilty of war crimes, and for indemnity for the destruction of the German fleet at Scapa Flow.

In the High school auditorium at 1 p. m. Wednesday the Garfield orchestra under the direction of Miss Edna Marlatt, will play.

1:30 p. m. High school auditorium, Otto Miesner, of the Milwaukee State Normal School, will speak on "Public School Music Credits", and demonstrate a piano he invented.

2:30 p. m. Grace M. E. Church, reports of sectional meetings. A general conference including reports from the chairmen of each sub-committee McCutchan will preside.