

Daniels Bares Naval Report

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 25, 1915.]

Secretary Daniels made public last night the original special report of the navy general board prepared in reply to a query addressed to the board when the administration determined last July to take up the question of national preparedness. Critics of the administration five-year building program for the navy have declared this report was suppressed in part by the navy department, and, if published, would disclose the inadequacy of the government's plans.

The board's statement of policy, holding that the American navy should equal the strongest afloat by 1925, was published some time ago, but the first year's building program advocated under that suggested policy is now revealed for the first time. It shows recommendations for four dreadnaughts and four battle cruisers, with an equally large program for other craft, and contemplates an expenditure roughly estimated at \$300,000,000 the first year, as compared with \$500,000,000 to be spent for new ships in five years under the administration plan.

Heavier Expenditures Later

The board does not say that the British fleet could be equaled by 1925 by continuing the first year program, but indicates that heavier expenditures would follow if shipbuilding facilities were increased in accordance with its recommendations.

In giving out the report Secretary Daniels said that all statements from the general board as to building programs made during the present year had now been made public. He called attention again to the fact that he had set a precedent for publishing the annual reports, as they had been regarded as confidential by previous secretaries of the navy. The report under discussion, and the publication of which some members of congress have stated they would demand, he said, was a special report, the sub-

stance of which already had been disclosed.

Full Text of the Report

Following is the report:

"Confidential. July 30, 1915.

"From: President, general board.

"To: Secretary of the Navy.

"Subject: Naval policy with present requirements.

"In compliance with the oral order of the secretary of the navy to express its opinion at the earliest practicable date as to a policy which should govern the development of the navy and a building program, the general board reports as follows:

Depends on Nation's Facilities

"Policy—The navy of the United States should ultimately be equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation of the world. It should be gradually increased to this point by such a rate of development, year by year, as may be permitted by the facilities of the country, but the limit above defined should be attained not later than 1925.

"2. In pursuance of this policy, and having in mind the present facilities of this country, the board is of the opinion that the following addition to the naval establishment should be authorized this year and recommends the same for your consideration; this addition is believed by the board to be within, and practically at the limit of, the facilities at present existing.

Craft That Are Recommended

"Four battle cruisers, four dreadnaughts, six scouts, 30 coast submarines, seven fleet submarines, 28 destroyers, six gunboats.

"Auxiliaries: One destroyer tender, two fleet submarine tenders, four fuel oil ships, one supply ship, one transport, one hospital ship, one repair ship, one ammunition ship.

"Air craft service (lump appropriation), \$5,000,000.

Further Increase in Personnel

"Personnel, 11,000 men. This number will provide for the needs of the present ships of the navy, including those nearing completion, but it must be borne in mind that the personnel, commissioned, warrant and enlisted, will have to be further increased as the new construction progresses.

"Increased facilities for the navy yards and shore establishments generally, such as dry docks, berthing places, building slips, structural shops, cranes for handling heavy weights, shop machinery, ammunition and other storage facilities, civil personnel, &c.

"GEORGE DEWEY."

Based on Blue's Report

Secretary Daniels' recommendation to congress that the enlisted personnel of the navy be increased by 7,500 bluejackets, 2,500 apprentice seamen and 1,500 marines during the years 1916-17, in order to man ships nearing completion, was based, it was disclosed last night, upon the annual report of Rear Admiral Victor Blue, chief of the bureau of navigation, now made public. The figures have been criticised in congress and elsewhere because they were below those of the general board.

There were 52,636 bluejackets in the service October 1, 1915, Admiral Blue's report shows, and with his proposed increases, including the apprentice seamen, the force would number 62,636 in 1917, or about 4,400 less than recommended by the general board. Admiral Blue states that he bases his estimates on a report from the board on November, 1914, which holds that all battleships under 15 years old, all destroyers and submarines under 12 years old, half the cruisers and all

gunboats and necessary auxiliaries should be kept in full commission, the remaining ships to be held in reserve with nucleus crews.

In Commission July 1, 1917

Should congress authorize an increase of 7,500 men, he says, there would be in full commission July 1, 1917, 22 battleships, 5 armored cruisers, 12 cruisers, 52 destroyers, 26 gunboats, 56 submarines and the requisite auxiliaries. In reserve would be 17 battleships over 15 years old, 5 armored cruisers, 11 cruisers, 16 destroyers, 19 old torpedo boats and 4 tenders.

The difference between the general board's figures of the necessary minimum strength for 1917 and those of Admiral Blue probably lies in the fact that Admiral Fletcher, commanding the Atlantic fleet, has urged an increase in the complement of each battleship. Admiral Blue says this has not been done because it would necessitate putting more ships in reserve for lack of men.

CAPITALIZING PATRIOTISM

[From the New York Commercial.]

Maxim munitions, the inventions of Hudson Maxim, now being manufactured by the Maxim Munitions Corporation, New York, draw their due share of inquiries these days of urgent demand from belligerent nations for arms and materials of war. In response to a request regarding the scope and purpose of this corporation, Mr. Maxim, the president, says:

"The object of the corporation is to manufacture munitions of all kinds, except explosive materials. We have signed a contract for the manufacture of 30,000,000 8 MM cartridges, and are expecting to close an order for Maxim automatic machine guns; in fact, we are planning to make automatic machine guns in large numbers. The type of gun is that known as the 1904 model, as adopted and purchased by the United States government. Nine-tenths of the automatic guns used in the present conflict have been guns of essentially this type.

"The Maxim Munitions Corporation has purchased a plant in New Haven, formerly the property of the Fuller Mfg. Co., mainly for assembling, it being our plan to have the different parts of the gun made at various factories. These parts will be made to jigs and gauges with great accuracy. In other words, the guns will be made perfectly interchangeable.

"We have already acquired the services of an efficient, scientific and mechanical staff.

"We have made one automatic gun of this type. The gun was actually made inside of two weeks and fired. We have five more which will be completed in a few days.

"This corporation has no connection whatsoever with Sir Hiram Maxim, of London, England, the original inventor of the gun. Among our technical staff are Capt. Edward H. Becke, who has had wide experience in successful manufacturing enterprises; Capt. Laurence Angel, recently of the staff of General Wood; Hiram Percy Maxim, inventor of the 'silencer,' and son of Sir Hiram Maxim; and his business partner, M. H. Haysler.

"Edwin B. Hotchkiss, who has had charge of large munition works here and abroad, and J. S. Conradi, for some time superintendent of the Vickers Gun Works at Dartford and Erith, England, is under contract to do similar work for us.

"George H. Gr-ham, inventor of the postoffice stamping machine, which cancels 600 letters a minute, has charge of the drafting department, and he has standardized the operation of the guns.

"We have sold to a financial syn-

dicate in New York, 200,000 shares of our treasury stock. I understand that the syndicate contemplates making a market for the stock on the New York Curb."

HEARING FROM HOME

(Special correspondence by Louis Ludlow, in the Florida Metropolis):

Florida Metropolis Bureau, Munsey Building, Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—Congress will reconvene after the holidays with the revenue situation, and, in fact, the entire "preparedness" situation, very much in the air.

Developments since congress adjourned for the Christmas recess have made two facts obvious.

1. That the number of persons throughout the country actively enlisted against the bigger army and navy program is increasing every day.

2. That congress in all probability can not be induced by any influence that can be brought to bear to levy additional direct taxes on such articles as automobiles, gasoline, bank checks, pig iron and fabricated steel, as suggested in the President's message.

William J. Bryan's first-page exhortation in The Commoner to his supporters to "write—write often"—to members of congress in opposition to the "preparedness" program is bearing fruit, especially his naive suggestion to each person whom he addresses that the program means additional taxes for him. The mails that are coming to senators and representatives from all of the interior states during the holiday recess show an active awakening of opposition to the greater army and navy movement. The mails are getting heavy and the writers are insistent that no such steps should be taken. The positive character of the opposition to "preparedness," as well as its extent, is proving a surprise to a good many members who are showing a disposition to waver in proportion as their mails are becoming heavier with this sort of correspondence.

There can be no doubt that the President's hold on congress has become weakened somewhat by the fact that he comes up for re-election simultaneously with the next congressional elections. Members who are inclined to "show their independence" of the executive know he will not have the same opportunities to punish them, if he were so disposed, at he would have in an off-year. Federal patronage is practically all disposed of, so far as this administration is concerned, and that ordinarily cohesive influence is not as potential as formerly. Cloak room defiance of President Wilson is becoming an every-day occurrence.

THE BURDEN OF PREPAREDNESS

An immense military burden is to be fastened onto the backs of the American people, if the jingo-munition interests can scare them into it. The din of their noisy clamor for "preparedness" is being heard in every part of the United States. Any kind of preparedness is acceptable, whether the present war shall prove it right or wrong, so that it leads to embarking the United States on a course that inevitably will insure the spending of huge sums for armament. The most modest amount the jingoes have yet mentioned for such yearly expenditure, is 450 million dollars, a sum equal to the entire savings of all the people in fifteen states of the Union. At least hadn't we better wait a few months that we may know better what we should prepare for and how we should prepare for it, instead of being stampeded into some colossally expensive folly?—Oklahoma Farmer.

CLAIM NO. 66

Mr. E. Ross Hitchcock was a well known attorney located at Sterling, Nebraska. He was also one of the early policyholders of THE MIDWEST LIFE, his policy being No. 1498. It was dated February 9, 1909, and was for \$1,000. His death occurred on December 16, 1915, from cancer of the liver.

Mr. Hitchcock paid the company \$252.84 in premiums and the company has paid his wife as beneficiary \$1,000, or about \$4.00 for every \$1.00 received by it. By the expenditure of a small sum each year, Mr. Hitchcock created this estate for his widow. It was a wise and thoughtful act on his part as it is on the part of anyone who has others dependent upon him for support.

THE MIDWEST LIFE
OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
A STOCK COMPANY SELLING
GUARANTEED COST LIFE INSURANCE