

Only 65 Warships in Russian Fleet

Navy Found Inferior Even to Small Neighbors'

Washington.—The Soviet Union, which has been consistently shy in revealing its military or naval status to the outside world, plays a minor role in naval affairs, as shown by the League of Nations armament year-book, copies of which have just been received here.

While the Red army is popularly credited with being one of the largest in the world, the Soviet government has made no effort to put a fleet on the ocean comparable even with some of its small neighbors, and now boasts 65 warships of 194,615 tons, most of them dating from before the World war.

Japan Has 216 Warships.
Japan, which always figures in any war talk between the Soviet Union and other nations, has 216 modern warships of 820,387 tons, and is building 21 new ships, which will increase its total tonnage to 889,910 tons.

The League Secretariat explains in a foot-note in the volume that official and public documents do not give desired information on Soviet affairs and that the data presented have been gathered from various technical sources.

The Red navy is pictured as composed of four battlehips of 93,480 tons, seven cruisers of 49,980 tons, 38 destroyers of 41,776 tons, and 16 submarines of 9,679 tons. Six submarines, now under construction, will give the Soviet Union a navy of 71 vessels of 197,465 tons.

The four battlehips—Pariskala, Kommuna, Marat, Oktabraskaia Revolutia and Mikhail Furuzze—are each 23,370 tons and were launched in 1914-15. Three of the cruisers date from shortly after the Russo-Japanese war and one dates from the World war. Two were launched in 1924-25; one was launched in 1930 and one in 1932.

With one exception the destroyers were launched from 1900 on to the World war. The submarines all date from the World war.

The League of Nations data put the Soviet Union's army at 5,200,000 men and 37,000 officers, of whom 29,039 men and 2,397 officers are classified as naval forces.

The Soviet Union's low naval ranking in relation to other world powers, is shown by comparable naval statistics from the league's data.

Other Countries Listed.
France has 185 warships of 541,630 tons, with 35 ships under construction.

Mountain Sheep Still Abundant in Wyoming

Jackson, Wyo.—Mountain sheep, rarely seen by the average person, still are far from extinct. Game Warden A. O. Pendergraft and Fred Deyo, returning from a trip into the high mountains, reported that they had counted more than 1,200, including 260 rams. They made the trip to determine whether to close the season in the county this year.

Recognizes Mule Dad Sold 31 Years Ago

Burns, Ore.—A mule sold by Jim Mahon, one-time famous Harney county mule breeder, in 1903 was recently recognized by the rancher's son, Ira Mahon, now of San Francisco, while driving along a California road.

He recognized the mule, sold 11 years ago, by the familiar brand "55." For fifteen years, he said, his father sold about 300 mules a year in Stockton, and he was willing to wager many other "plenty tough" mules still were living and working.

Massachusetts Doctor Gets British Annuity

Andover, Mass.—Dr. William Dacre Walker, fifty-five, of this town, has become the recipient of an annuity paid by the British crown, as the direct descendant of Elizabeth Pendrell, whom history credits with saving the life of King Charles II.

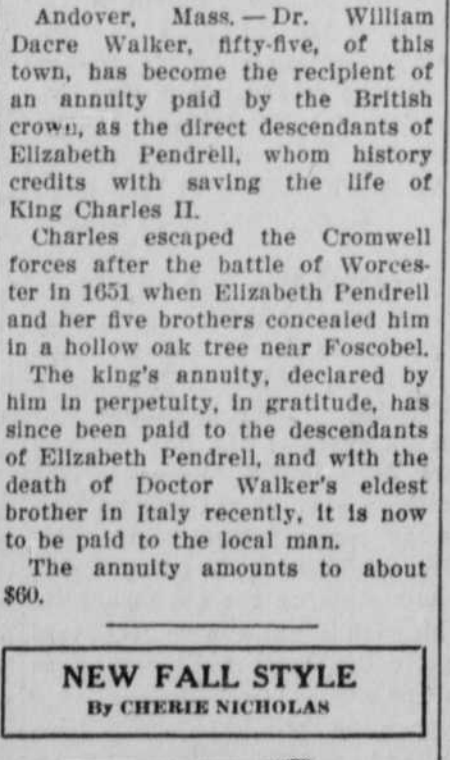
Charles escaped the Cromwell forces after the battle of Worcester in 1651 when Elizabeth Pendrell and her five brothers concealed him in a hollow oak tree near Foscoebel.

The king's annuity, declared by him in perpetuity, in gratitude, has since been paid to the descendants of Elizabeth Pendrell, and with the death of Doctor Walker's eldest brother in Italy recently, it is now to be paid to the local man.

The annuity amounts to about \$60.

NEW FALL STYLE

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Equally at home on the campus or in the office is this smart youthful frock. It is fashioned of a red and brown checked rayon tie-fabric of smooth tailored lines. The idea of mannish flared weaves is carried out to a nicety. The patch pockets, high club collar with masculine brown tie, and linked turn-back cuffs are important style features. This rayon tie-fabric is very likable and practical in that it looks as handsome as a fine surah silk at the same time that it wears "like iron."

Lumber Industry Oldest

The lumber industry was one of the first to be established in America.

250,000 MURDERERS AT LARGE IN U. S.

Criminologist Sees 390,000 Facing Violent Death.

New York.—There are still at large in this country today 250,000 murderers.

Simple statistical analysis indicates that about 300,000 American men and women now living will commit murder.

Since murderers are often uncaught, or unconvicted, and then proceed to kill for a second or even a third time, there must be at least 300,000 living Americans who will meet death by being murdered.

Allowing for murderers who are in prison, these figures mean that approximately 1,000,000 citizens of the United States are murderers, will be murderers or will be murdered.

"Murders in this country are so common," declares J. H. Wallis, "that an American does not take them seriously—unless he is murdered himself."

Mr. Wallis, the authority for the amazing and appalling criminal statistics just listed, is a New York author, a life-long student of criminal law and statistics and, at one time, a personal assistant of Herbert Hoover.

His views are especially interesting at this time, since one New York woman, Mrs. Anna Antonio, recently was executed for murder, and another, Eva Cox, has just been convicted of the same offense.

Such murderers "want what they want when they want it"—and are ready to kill to get it. He finds that women who slay usually are of this type, since few women are professional killers for gain.

"I'm a collector of thousands of real murders—of stories about them," Mr. Wallis explained. "Consider the childish motives of many women killers—motives which, in fiction, readers would scorn as utterly inadequate.

"In Chicago a woman choked her husband to death because, as she explained, he insisted on wearing suspenders instead of a belt. A Kansas City woman, whose husband was her partner at bridge, shot and killed him because he failed to make the contract from the hand which she laid down. She was acquitted, too."

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Angler Exhibits Chin Punched by a Fish

Belleville, Ont.—First prize for the best "fish story" of the season should go to Frank Aikens, forty-seven, a Sidney farmer.

Aikens reports that a 38-pound muskellunge, which he hooked in the Moira river, towed him and his motorboat for more than an hour and then smacked him on the chin with its tail when he tried to lift it into the boat.

"It was the worst battle with a fish that I ever have experienced. It sure packed a mean wallop," he said, pointing to his swollen face. "Just as I was pulling it into the boat, it swished around and caught me on the chin with its tail."

Lesson on Punctuality Given by Police Judge

Davenport, Ia.—Police Magistrate John Hornby is a bachelor, which may explain his habit of waiting on others. For some time he has been obliged to wait 10 to 20 minutes on attorneys and court attaches before he could open court. Recently the judge took his seat promptly at 9, waited two minutes, then left. After attorneys and court attendants had cooled their heels for 30 minutes the judge returned and gave them a lecture on punctuality.

Paddling Wins Divorce

Los Angeles.—When Ed LeRue turned his wife, Vi, over his knee and applied a razor strop, Vi LeRue went into Judge Kenny's court and obtained a divorce.

SEEN and HEARD

around the

National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—An overwhelming percentage of the householders throughout the country who have yielded to the blandishments of the government's modernization campaign have spent cash for improvements to their homes instead of borrowing. Yet it was not even contemplated that people who had the cash to spend would need the coaling.

The chief problem the Federal Housing administration is up against is reluctance of people everywhere to go into debt. It was rather a jolt to every one in the administration to discover this, and in fact, it requires a good deal of prying into the situation to find that this is the fact. But it is the truth, nevertheless.

The point seems to be that this is the first move the administration has made in its dealings with various sections of the public where the idea is to get people who still have a little property, represented in this case by their homes, to borrow money which they must pay back for nonproductive items.

The government has dealt with property holders before. But they were farmers, and the government was offering them something—in most instances for nothing, or at most for not planting crops.

What the FHA is up against is fear on the part of these small property holders to mortgage their incomes for the next year or so. It is this lack of confidence in the future, which is so disturbing to the administration, that explains why this curious fact has not been revealed before.

Beyond the shadow of a doubt it is not due to any lack of pressure from corporations, which have something to sell along the modernization line—bathrooms, roofing, what not. Nor is there any lack in the ballyhoo the government has used. For instance, the President's mother in a newsreel. For instance, the public and commercially sponsored radio programs, the dodgers in the grocery baskets, the newspaper and direct mail advertising by manufacturers whose products tie in with modernization, and by others who expect to benefit on the turnover of money put into circulation by this plan.

So far the greatest measure of success has been in the small towns. Cincinnati is one exception among the larger cities, but the smaller places seem to need more time to get organized. Home owners are given a check list of all items that need attention. A vital feature of every community campaign is a canvass of such individual needs and intentions. The Federal Housing administration is schooling speakers whose services soon will be available. It is also supplying movies for the visomatic portable talking machines that may be leased from a big telegraph company. Four pictures have been prepared for exhibition for community purposes, for financial institutions, for local contractors and building supply dealers, and for property owners.

FHA is dealing direct with the big national companies which sell building materials and equipment all over the country. It is having conferences with their representatives here in Washington, and also in regional meetings and in company offices. Meetings in 32 industrial centers were held last week. Others will follow, there having been some holding back on the part of a few which did not wish to expose their entire hands to their competitors.

FHA is urging all industrial firms to point the way to employees and home owners generally by catching up on plant repair and maintenance. U. S. Steel has responded with an \$18,000,000 schedule, and General Electric is following suit.

A big department store in Wisconsin has followed through with a re-furnishing plan which "steps right in where Uncle Sam leaves off."

But the timid householders are still reluctant to borrow.

Peace in NRA Ranks

All is peaceful at the moment in NRA, with Hugh Johnson out of the picture, and the new bosses functioning, but there is trouble in the offing, and not very far off at that. One of the hints is with regard to the almost complete failure of business to "spy on itself."

When NRA was set up, the main object was to prevent murderous competition, which ground the workers down and down in the hope of their employer that he would be able to produce cheaply enough to undersell his competitors and get a little of the rapidly evaporating business. The intention was to force each employer to pay equal wages and work his help equal hours, so that whatever other chiseling he might do, his help would not suffer. It was widely hailed at the time as the only solution for the vicious circle downward in which the country had gotten.

For every time Chiseler A reduced his wages so as to get some of the business, Chiseler B met the reductions, while the employees of both A and B were able to buy less

of other products. And as the same thing was happening in so many lines, the buying power of the country was shrinking at every tick of the clock.

It was thought when NRA was set up and the various restrictions imposed, that if anyone among the manufacturers in a given industry would start chiseling, no matter how, his competitors would smell it out, and would scream to high heaven. This would bring the chiseler before the code authority of his industry and measures would be taken to stop it.

No one seemed to doubt that the interest of self-preservation would lead to the various production lines of industry, in this way, policing themselves.

Now, some of the heads of NRA are wondering what will be the reaction among business men generally if NRA should do its own snooping—if its agents should walk into plants without notice and demand a look at the books and a look around at the plant. Just like national bank examiners, only with a view not to discovering if the institution is solvent, and its assets O. K., but to finding out what working conditions are, whether profits are too large to be in keeping with New Deal ideals, etc.

There is considerable fear that this would be very much resented, so a number of discreet inquiries are being made. There is no desire at the moment to further heckle business. On the contrary, there is every desire on the part of the administration to keep business in as good a humor as possible, certainly until after election.

That is one of the things that annoyed the President so much recently about the United States Chamber of Commerce questionnaire. He doesn't want any element fanned into insurrection now. This is not the right time.

But how else, those with the spirit of the NRA in their minds demand, can its policies be enforced and the desired results obtained, in view of the demonstrated fact that business simply will not police itself?

Drastic measures are being planned to start a real business revival by the simple expedient of getting the money directly into the hands of merchants, manufacturers or other business men who are willing to spend it if they can just borrow it somewhere.

Though there has been no flurry of trumpets about it, Ben Johnson, a banker from Shreveport, La., has been placed in charge of this particular new function of the government.

What started this move was the fact, laid before the RFC, that up to September 24, a total of only 165 loans had been made, for the very disappointing aggregate of \$12,628,375. It had been the plan of the administration to have at least \$300,000,000 out on such loans by that date.

It will be Mr. Johnson's function to encourage applicants for loans, who have been turned down by regional loan agencies, to appeal to Washington, then to go into the loans and see if they cannot be optimized. Johnson himself is full of optimism. He believes that thousands of business enterprises can use more working capital to advantage, since loans can be made on a long-time basis up to five years.

This has been one of the sore spots in the New Deal all along. It will be recalled that, after much discussion last year between congressional leaders and the administration, a bill was finally put through which was intended to open the treasury door to all sorts of loans which seemed to be sound, but which for one reason or another local banks would not make.

The New Deal has never been particularly sympathetic with private bankers. Their profits seemed to the government an undue addition to the cost of doing business. Their profits were viewed with horror. They might have continued, in spite of this, had it not been for the securities act. But with that tremendous handicap of not being able to represent to purchasers of the securities they had to sell that there would be tremendous profits, the zest with which such securities were bought in the past evaporated.

All this was realized by congress, and by the treasury, so it was arranged that the government should make the loans necessary to business expansion, and at a fairly low rate of interest. The money was appropriated, the authority was given, and shop was opened up, so to speak. But nothing, or practically nothing, if one may speak so disrespectfully of twelve million odd dollars, has happened.

So now the government has named a particular man, Ben Johnson, and given him the assignment to go out into the byways and hedges and find the blind, the halt and the lame who need only a little government money to blossom as the rose, or at least give a good appearance of being able so to blossom.

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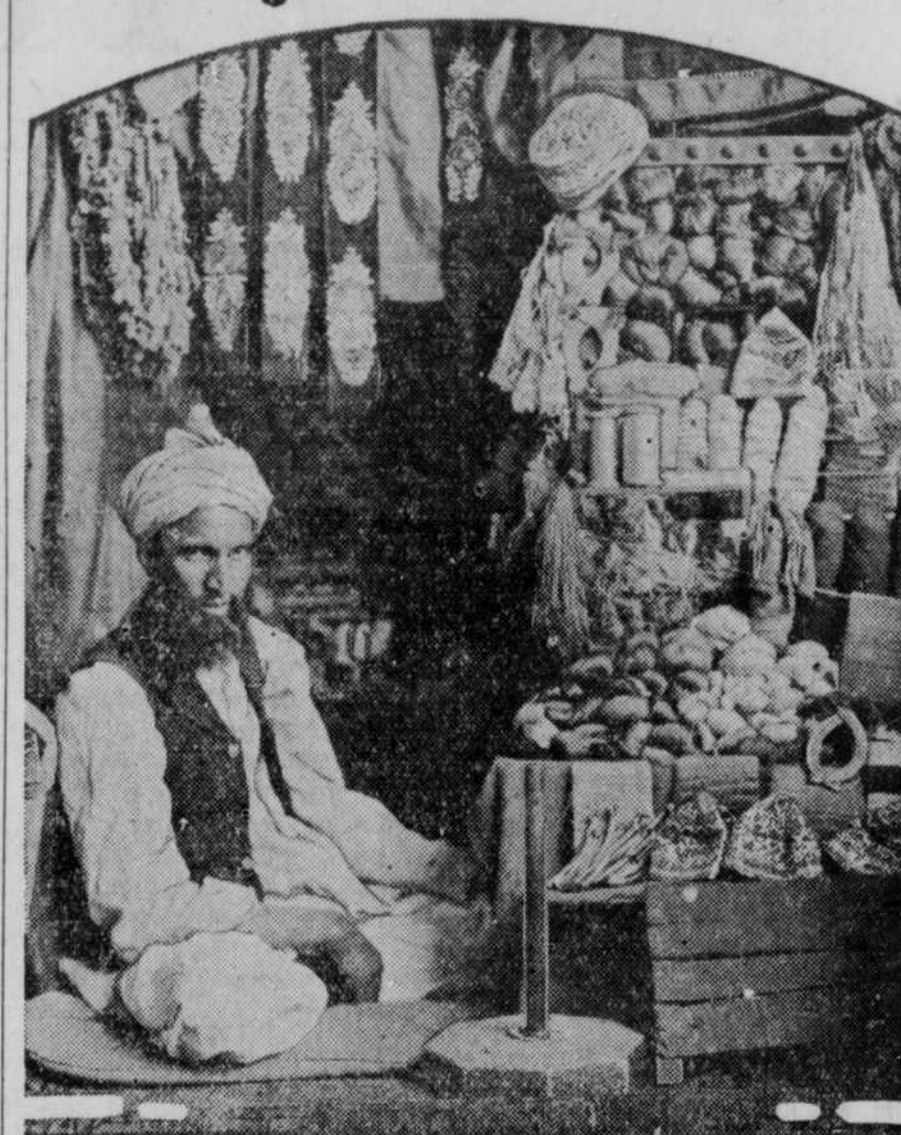
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Afghanistan



Typical Afghan Silk Merchant.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNSU Service.

POBABLY no people of Asia fought harder against the invasion of western customs than the Afghans. Not many years ago few were the foreigners who crossed their borders and lived to tell the tale. In recent years, however, many visitors have given in print first-hand descriptions of the kingdom that reposes among the mountains northwest of India.

In Asia, where headgear is a sign of rank or race, the Afghan has refused to "go high hat."

To the Durani leaders and Shinwari tribesmen, the threat of parliamentary procedure was bad enough, for Afghanistan was more a mountain-sandwiched mass of aggressively independent tribes than a united kingdom. But edicts prescribing shorn beards, frock coats, and top hats were last straws on their tolerance of hasty centralization. They felt that a high-speed dawn from the west was a false dawn. And so they proved it.

After six years the turban remains, a sign that, even in Asia, haste makes waste.

To induce European thoughts in Turkish heads, Mustapha Kemal Pasha tucked the Latin alphabet in below European hats. Amanullah hoped to accomplish even more radical changes. But the patient Afghan mountaineer, a swaggering "he-man," if there ever was one, persisted in sticking to his broad turban or dressy astrakhan cap. And thereby hangs a tale.

Afghanistan was long isolated by political jealousy as Mecca and Lhasa are by prayer niche and prayer wheel. The Afghans cherished isolation as had their predecessors, the Parthians, who "held it as a maxim to accord no passage over their country to any stranger."

In 1917, when a traveler rode southward from Merv, Kushka was the end of a blind alley. In 1921 when he went northwest through the Khyber pass and faced that famous sign reading: "It Is Absolutely Forbidden to Cross This Border Into Afghanistan Territory," there was a Gurkha guard to emphasize the "absolutely."

By 1917 not only was Afghanistan open to visitors but current events speeded up. Before the end of that medieval year King Amanullah and Queen Souriya, monogamous rulers of a polygamous land, had boarded their first steamship and were at the threshold of western culture, its permanent values then reinforced by industrial activity and bull markets.

The next six months were amazing. The vacationing rulers rode from triumph to triumph, enjoying such European thrills as few Europeans know because westerners have had decades to become accustomed to what the Afghan rulers personally encountered during a few weeks of western hospitality.

Rome, Monte Carlo, Paris, Belgium, Switzerland, Berlin, Leipzig, London, Warsaw, Moscow, Ankara, Istanbul, Teheran—there was no commonplace trip. Nations, hoping for commercial or political advantage, outdid one another in honoring these rulers of a newly opened buffer state between the native republics of Soviet Turkestan and that "No-man's Land," bristling with manhood.

Across the northwest frontier, India's Chinese wall, many a conqueror entered Hindustan, treasure house of gold and jewels. The presence of poverty-stricken and nomadic tribesmen so close to ill-guarded riches often proved disastrous to India. It is no wonder that the British rulers invited the Afghan king to be the first royal visitor ever to fly over London, and staged a mock battle for his benefit.

Present-day Kabul is as interesting for its scenes of native life as for its new political policies.

In Kabul hatters stuff cotton or paper into top and side welts of gaudy skullcaps, while tailors fashion equally flashy vests. Menders of chinaware or even of lemonade glasses bore tiny holes in the pieces and fasten them together with soft copper brads, hammered in.

Shopkeepers sit amid their stock and scoop away a few dried peas or a bit of sugar or flour from neat cones of food-stuffs. Jewelers set large stones like rubies into wide silver bracelets with projecting points like those on dog collars.

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Italian Athletes Arrive for American Tour



Above are some of the athletes of the Italian student group which arrived in New York on the S. S. Saturnia, for a tour of the American colleges in the East and Middle West.