

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Coincident with the publication of the Newport conference on naval construction, it has leaked out that Secretary of the Navy Metcalf several months ago sent to Admiral Sperry of the battleship fleet a copy of the letter written by Commander Key criticizing the design of the North Dakota and asking for the opinions of all the officers of the fleet. Sperry has now sent a report showing that 90 per cent of the officers supported Key. Sperry had each battleship carefully measured and several showed an overdraft of about two feet. This tends to sustain the criticisms of Reuter and others. The report of the Newport conference, which was given out semi-officially, says that the consensus of expert opinion was that the plates had been rightly placed and that the design of the North Dakota was excellent. The conference did, however, discover some minor defects in the location and protection of magazines and expressed the view that the 12-inch guns are inferior to those now being used on British ships of the same class.

In a letter to Prof. L. H. Bailey of Ithaca, chairman of the Country Life Commission, recently appointed, President Roosevelt suggests that the commission ask the farmers and all those whose life work is in the open country to come together in the different school districts, using the schoolhouses for meeting places, and discuss such matters as the efficiency of the rural schools, farmers' organizations, farm labor, need of good roads, better postal facilities and sanitary conditions on the farm. He tells the commission that its work is to ascertain what are the general economic, social, educational and sanitary conditions of the open country, and what, if anything, the farmers can do to help themselves, and what the government can best do to help them. The president announced that he would add two extra members to the commission, making seven in all.

An estimate that the losses during the months when forest fires have been prevailing in various parts of the United States have aggregated \$1,000,000 per day, was made by W. J. McGee, the erosion expert of the Department of Agriculture. The forest service in a statement says that probably in every instance the devastating forest fires might have been prevented if the several States had provided an adequate number of men to patrol the woods and arrest the fires in their incipency, and if lumbermen and other users of the forests had been careful to dispose of brush after logging so as to prevent the spread of fires.

Bids have been opened at the Navy Department for the construction of eight submarine torpedo boats, for which Congress has appropriated \$3,500,000. The Electric Boat Company of Quincy, Mass., bid for boats of 435 tons displacement from \$414,000 to \$444,000, according to the class and number of boats built on the Atlantic coast. For a boat of 375 tons displacement the prices range from \$360,000 to \$390,000. The Lake Torpedo Boat Company, Bath, Me., bid on boats of 518 tons displacement from \$415,000 to \$460,000, and on boats of 410 tons displacement from \$382,500 to \$410,000. For boats built on the Pacific coast the prices quoted are much higher.

Under the direction of Prof. I. H. Bailey, the Country Life Commission recently appointed by President Roosevelt is sending out a letter of inquiry to 300,000 persons, the replies to be tabulated by the Census Bureau. The questions relate to the conditions of farm homes, conditions of rural schools, whether the farmers get reasonable returns for their labor, reasonable service from highways of transportation, if their postal service is adequate, about organization, renting, help blanks, insurance, etc. Any one may receive a copy of this circular for the asking.

Postmaster General Sydney Buxton, of the British postoffice department, and J. Hennelker Heath, known abroad as the father of penny postage, exchanged congratulatory telegrams with Postmaster General Meyer over the inauguration of a 2-cent postage rate between this country and Great Britain.

In order to keep the organization free from even the suspicion of evasion of legal requirements, George Otis Smith, director of the geological survey, has issued an order prohibiting members of the survey from owning stock in any mining company, the property of which is in the United States or Alaska.

Recommendation is made by Brigadier General James Allen, chief signal officer of the United States army, to Secretary of War Wright that a certificate of honor be awarded to Corporal Roy F. Cox of the signal corps for heroic action in saving the life of a woodchopper whose feet had been frozen in Alaska. Cox carried the man sixty-five miles through a raging blizzard, with the thermometer 30 degrees below zero.

FIFTY MAY BE DEAD IN ARKANSAS STORM

Two Tornadoes Sweep Large Section of State, Causing Death and Injury.

HAVOC WHERE THEY MEET. Region Swept Bare, Trees and Houses Being Leveled—Town of Piney Wiped Out.

Two tornadoes, one from the north and the other from the south, swept over western Arkansas late Monday afternoon, killing many persons and destroying much property. From reports received it is estimated that thirty to fifty lives were lost. The property damage will reach hundreds of thousands of dollars.

One tornado started in the extreme southwestern part of the State and went north, touching the second tier of counties from the western boundary line. The other started in the northwestern corner of the State and went south, devastating the second and third tier of counties. The counties through which the storms passed are Lafayette, Columbia, Miller, Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Montgomery, Yell, Pope, Johnson, Franklin and Carroll.

Many Killed at Piney. Piney, a German settlement on the Iron Mountain railroad, between Knoxville and London, suffered most severely, and was practically wiped out. The number of dead is estimated from nine to twenty. Five business houses and a number of dwellings were destroyed.

From the towns of Berryville and Cravens the most definite reports are received. At the former three persons were injured, and the property loss is estimated between \$25,000 and \$40,000. At Cravens four persons are known to be dead. They are members of the family of John Rosin, a farmer, who were caught under the falling timbers

FOOLED UNCLE SAM.

How the Creek Indians Euchered Him Out of \$7,000,000.

The Creek Indians have euchered Congress to the tune of \$7,000,000 in their treaty agreements, and the first knowledge Congress will have of it will be this winter, when the Indians and the representatives of the Department of the Interior will demand that Congress settle up. And the Creeks are laughing up their sleeves at the clever trap into which Congress walked.

The first Creek agreement provided that each Creek should receive 160 acres of land, the maximum appraised value of which should be \$1,040. Those who got land appraised for less than the maximum were to have the difference in land or in money. Then the Creeks slipped through Congress an innocent-looking measure that provided that new-born children should be admitted to the rolls.

Congress had not figured, but the Creeks had. The result was that the new-born children took up all the surplus land for allotments. The allotting is completed and the Indians now are ready for a final settlement, and it will be recommended to Congress this winter by the commissioners of the five tribes and the Secretary of the Interior.

The Creeks have only \$3,000,000 assets, as a tribe. This leaves them a net \$7,000,000, which Congress will have to pay. It is just \$7,000,000 additional wealth the Creeks have procured by outwitting Congress.

There are nearly 20,000 Creeks. This \$7,000,000 will mean \$350 to every man, woman and child, and when it is paid will be the greatest amount of money the Creeks ever had at one time. Every Creek allottee will share in it, unless he got land that was appraised at the full \$1,040. It makes no difference if an Indian has gotten his allotment and sold every acre of it, if it was appraised for \$700 by the government he will be entitled to \$340 in money.

GATUN DAM AT PANAMA SINKING

Heavy Rainfalls Undermine Structure, Causing Earth to Settle.

Because of the exceptionally heavy rainfalls of the last three weeks the earth on the crest of the Gatun dam, in

KAISER'S TALK OF WAR PUBLIC.

German Emperor Said to Have Declared Strife Inevitable.

The New York World publishes what it says is an accurate and authentic synopsis of the now world celebrated interview granted by Kaiser Wilhelm to Dr. William Bayard Hale, and which was suppressed at the request of the German government. Summarized, the main points of the Kaiser's interview, which took place on the imperial yacht Hohenzollern off Bergen, Norway, are as follows:

That King Edward of Great Britain had been humiliating him for more than two years and that he was exasperated; that Germany was the paramount power in all Europe, and that England was trying to neutralize that power.

That he held France in the hollow of his hand, and that Russia was of no account since the disastrous war she had waged with Japan.

That if the Pan-European war which has been so much talked about was inevitable the sooner it came the better it would be for him, because he was ready and was tired of the suspense.

That Great Britain had been a decadent nation ever since her victory over the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, because hers was an unright-



EMPEROR WILLIAM.

eous, ungodly cause, and divine judgment was bound eventually to overtake the powerful nation that waged such a war.

That the Anglo-Japanese alliance was an iniquitous alliance against all the white races, England proving absolutely her faithfulness as a Christian nation; that Japan was honeycombing India with sedition and flooding it with spies while professing openly to be England's friend and ally.

That the only way to counteract this alliance was for Germany and America to act together at an early date or America would have to fight the Japanese in ten months.

That in the event of a great war England would lose many of her large colonies, especially those in the Pacific, and that all he would take for Germany would be Egypt, though he would liberate the holy land from the yoke of infidel, presumably meaning the Sultan.

That the perfecting of the Zeppelin dirigible balloon would give Germany a powerful advantage in war, and she was ready to make use of it to the fullest extent.

Leonard Wood in Command. Major Gen. Leonard Wood, upon his recent arrival at New York from Europe, received Gen. Grant as commander of the Department of the East, with headquarters at Governor's Island. Gen. Wood said he was glad to be home again after his six years in the Philippines. Speaking of the war maneuvers which he witnessed in France and Germany, he said that dirigible balloons were an unequalled success in Europe, and that it was a common thing to see them maneuvering in the sky in Germany, and that the time was coming when they would be protected from shot from below. The aeroplane, he said, was bound to come after the dirigible, and would probably prove more efficient. The Wright brothers he called the leaders as aeroplansists. Gen. Wood described the conditions in the Philippines as peaceful and prosperous, but said there would be even more prosperity if trade relations with this country were better. He thought Philippine products should be admitted into this country free, that it was hard for farmers to raise crops under the American flag and then have to pay duty on them. Philippine scouts, he said, were among the finest soldiers in the world.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES. G. P. Engelhardt has returned to New York from Guatemala with specimens of the stingsless bee.

F. L. De la Barra has been appointed to succeed Enrique Creel as Mexican ambassador to Washington.

Thomas McGrath, a St. Louis election official, was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary for making false returns.

The Rev. Dr. Myron W. Haynes, formerly of Chicago, has resigned the pastorate of the Delmar Avenue Baptist church in St. Louis. He says enemies have hounded him.

Col. William F. Tucker, husband of the daughter of Gen. John A. Logan, will have to undergo an operation for Bright's disease, according to a statement issued by his physician.

J. W. Solomon, a Salt Lake City line-man, narrowly escaped death when he fell from a pole among broken wires charged with 4,000 volts. He picked his way through the deadly wires to safety.

COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

The Weekly Review of Chicago Trade, published by R. G. Dun & Co., says: "Evidences of healthy recovery in commerce become more distinct. The recent rise in the volume of payments through the banks is accentuated by an aggregate which is the largest in thirteen months and exceeds that of the corresponding week in 1906, when business was exceptionally good."

"Trading defaults also make a gratifying exhibit, both numbers and liabilities being only one-half those recorded at this time last year."

"Another gratifying testimony is seen in the diminishing ranks of idle workers and freight cars. Investment interest has become very encouraging, a safer balance being established by the check to over-trading in Wall street securities. Money is ample for legitimate purposes and the discount rate favors renewed enterprise along both industrial and financial lines."

"Local developments denote increasing activity in production and distribution. Movements of finished products and crude materials furnish heavier tonnage to the railroads, while marketings of farm products run above those of a year ago. Notable gains appear in forwarding of flour, provisions and live stock."

"Ore receipts are ample for the winter consumption and new furnaces at Gary will start in a few weeks. Heavy orders permit more employment of machinery and labor at Pullman, and in some iron branches there is now day and night work."

"Railroad returns testify to sustained recovery in earnings of the Chicago systems, and more pressure appears for equipment to market corn and live stock within the next few weeks."

"Merchandise stocks undergo rapid reduction, while the luxuries do fairly well, particularly in furs, jewelry and art wares. Mail orders disclose more confidence of country buyers and there are substantial selections of spring and summer staples. House buying provides fair activity in dry goods, footwear, men's furnishings and food products."

"Bank clearings, \$236,338,289, exceed those of corresponding week in 1907 by 55.4 per cent, and compare with \$241,354,490 in 1906."

"Failures reported in the Chicago district number 18, against 28 last week, 26 in 1907 and 26 in 1906. Those with liabilities over \$5,000 number 5, against 10 last week, 14 in 1907 and 10 in 1906."

NEW YORK.

Enlargement and expansion are still the dominating influences in trade and industry, and the volume of sales and of orders booked by wholesalers and manufacturers continues to show gains, particularly in the commercial and manufacturing centers of the North, East and West.

Still certain evidences of irregularity are found in the reports that mild weather is restricting sales of winter goods at retail in the above sections, and southern advices are that improvement in that section is rather slower than expected and that low cotton prices and holding of that product by producers are checking trade and collections.

Idle cars are reported growing fewer in number rapidly. Heavier buying of pig iron is reported at the East and lake markets are more active, but Pittsburgh reports transactions smaller. Prices are higher.

In wholesale and jobbing lines North, East and West reports are generally that trade is expanding, that spring purchases are increasing and that stocks in final distributors' hands are light. Cotton goods are growing in demand and prices are being advanced.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending Nov. 19 number 273, against 267 last week, 265 in the like week of 1907, 212 in 1906, 224 in 1905 and 193 in 1904. Business failures in Canada for the week number 33, which compares with 22 last week and 35 in the same week last year.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$4.00 to \$7.75; hogs, prime heavy, \$4.00 to \$6.05; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.03 to \$1.05; corn, No. 2, 62c to 63c; oats, standard, 48c to 49c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 76c; hay, timothy, \$8.00 to \$14.00; prairie, \$8.00 to \$12.50; butter, choice creamery, 25c to 26c; eggs, fresh, 27c to 29c; potatoes, per bushel, 62c to 71c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$7.00; hogs, good to choice heavy, \$3.50 to \$6.10; wheat, No. 2, \$1.01 to \$1.03; corn, No. 2 white, 61c to 62c; oats, No. 2 white, 49c to 50c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$4.50 to \$7.50; hogs, \$4.00 to \$5.50; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2, \$1.06 to \$1.08; corn, No. 2, 61c to 62c; oats, No. 2, 49c to 50c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 76c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.00; hogs, \$4.00 to \$5.40; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.04 to \$1.06; corn, No. 3 yellow, 64c to 65c; oats, No. 3 white, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 76c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, \$1.03 to \$1.05; corn, No. 3, 60c to 61c; oats, standard, 50c to 51c; rye, No. 1, 74c to 75c; barley, No. 1, 63c to 64c; pork, mess, \$14.70.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, \$4.00 to \$6.75; hogs, fair to choice, \$4.00 to \$6.00; sheep, common to good mixed, \$4.00 to \$4.75; lambs, fair to choice, \$5.00 to \$6.25.

New York—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.90; hogs, \$3.50 to \$5.80; sheep, \$3.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, \$1.12 to \$1.13; corn, No. 2, 71c to 72c; oats, natural white, 54c to 57c; butter, creamery, 27c to 31c; eggs, western, 31c to 34c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, \$1.04 to \$1.06; corn, No. 2 mixed, 61c to 63c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 49c to 50c; rye, No. 2, 77c to 78c; clover seed, \$5.50.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1492—Vincent Yanes Pinzon sailed from Palos for America, with four caravels, and was the first Spaniard to cross the equinoctial line.

1524—Francisco Pizarro sailed from Panama for the conquest of Peru.

1620—The "Mayflower" cast anchor in Provincetown harbor, Cape Cod.

1734—Zenger, editor of a New York weekly journal, was imprisoned for defending government by the people.

1755—Two hundred Scotchmen from Nova Scotia were banished from Boston.

1774—Louis XVI. re-established the French Parliament.

1777—Gen. Howe's army went into winter quarters in Philadelphia.

1780—Americans under Gen. Sumter defeated the British in battle of Broad River.

1794—Treaty concluded at Canandaigua between the United States and the Six Nations.

1804—James Monroe appointed United States minister to Spain.

1813—Americans defeated at battle of Chrysler's Farm, on the Canadian bank of the St. Lawrence river.... The junta, under the name of the National Assembly, declared the independence of Mexico.... British repulsed in an attack on Ogdensburg, N. Y.

1816—Two hundred persons drowned in the wreck of the transport "Harpooer" off the Newfoundland coast.

1828—The Cayuga and Seneca canal in New York was completed.

1829—Troops at Monterey revolted against the Governor of California.... President Guerrero of Mexico relinquished the extraordinary powers granted him by Congress on account of the Spanish invasion.... President Jackson proposed to reduce the number of navy yards in the United States to four—Norfolk, Narragansett, Washington and Charleston.

1846—Tampico, Mexico, surrendered to Commodore Connor of the American navy.

1849—Many lives were lost by the explosion of a boiler on the steamboat Louisiana at New Orleans.

1862—Prince of Sonderburg-Glücksburg proclaimed King of Denmark as Christian IX.

1864—War began between Brazil and Paraguay.

1868—England and the United States agreed to arbitrate the Alabama affair.

1870—Duke of Aosta elected King of Spain.

1871—Henry M. Stanley discovered Dr. Livingstone at Ujiji.

1872—Fire broke out in Boston and in two days burned over an area of sixty-five acres and caused a loss of \$80,000,000.

1874—Forty persons were drowned by the sinking of the packet Empire at New Orleans.

1881—Charles Guiteau was placed on trial for the murder of President Garfield.

1884—The third plenary council of the Roman Catholic church met at Baltimore.

1889—Brazilian monarchy overthrown and republic established.... Washington admitted to statehood by proclamation of President Harrison.

1891—William J. Florence made his last appearance on the stage at the Arch street theater, Philadelphia.

1896—Electrical power generated at Niagara Falls was transmitted to Buffalo.

1898—Earl of Minto sworn in as governor general of Canada.

1905—Martial law declared throughout Poland.... Prince Charles of Denmark was chosen King of Norway.

1906—Sultan of Morocco received United States Minister Gummere at Fez.... A suit to dissolve the Standard Oil combine was filed in the United States Circuit Court at St. Louis.... Countess Boni de Castellane was granted a divorce and custody of her children.... President Roosevelt sailed from Colon for Porto Rico after having inspected the laborers' quarters at San Cristobal.

1907—Secretary Root opened the Central American Peace Conference.... German Emperor and Empress arrived at Windsor on visit to King Edward.... The German Emperor visited London.... The German Emperor received the Oxford honorary degree of D. C. L. from Lord Curzon.... The third Russian Duma was opened.... Oklahoma admitted to the Union.

ALL AROUND THE GLOBE.

The trial of T. Jenkins Hains in connection with the murder of William C. Annis was fixed in New York for Dec. 14. Passengers arriving at New Orleans say suffering and desolation prevail along the coast of Nicaragua, where a hurricane recently destroyed the towns of Rio Grande and Prinzapuka. After suffering from a fractured skull received in an automobile accident more than a month ago, a Brooklyn (N. Y.) woman has become violently insane. The doctors say her case is hopeless.