CAPPS RESIGNS AS HEAD OF U. S. FLEET PROGRAM

Ill Health Assigned as Reason for Withdrawal; Reports of Friction Rampant; Successor Not Chosen.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Nov. 24.—Rear Admiral Washington L. Capps, general manager of the shipping board's emergency fleet corporation, was relieved from duty in that position tonight by President Wilson at his own request by ill health and with expressions of deepest regret by the chief executive. His successor has not been named, but Chairman Hurley of the board was known to favor the appointment of a man trained in the same service.

While Admiral Capps' physician has advised him that to continue at work, either on the fleet corporation or in any other capacity would imperil his life, there were reports that friction between the admiral and Chairman Hurley hastened the former's decision to retire. He would have been forced to resign in any case within a few weeks, according to those who know his physical condition, but the recent action of the shipping board in reorganizing the fleet corporation with Charles A. Piez, as vice president in virtual charge of the ship construction program, was said to have influenced the admiral to withdraw without more delay.

There was not much discussion tonight as to the probable selection by the president of a successor to Admiral Capps. Homer L. Ferguson, president and general manager of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock company and formerly a naval construtcor, is known to have declined the post. Secretary Daniels conferred with Chairman Hurley on the matter tonight, but so far as was made known they reached no decision.

Assistant May Retire.

There have been reports that Rear Admiral F. T. Bowles, Admiral Capps' chief assistant, also would retire, but no announcement was made tonight.

As the situation was presented by those familiar with events transpiring within the shipping board and emergency fleet corporation since Chairman Denman and General Goethals resigned as heads of these two interlocked government agencies after a clash of opinion, the shipping board in assuming responsibility for the carrying through of the enormous production program outlined by Chairman Hurley has virtually taken over the actual direction of building operations.

Mr. Hurley feels that the designing part of the corporation's work is so well advanced that all efforts should be concentrated upon construction. For that reason it appeared possible that Admiral Capps' successor might be selected purely for his ability to drive through the construction program.

Tribute was freely paid tonight to Admiral Capps on all sides for the work he has done in organizing the corporation's office after he took charge following the Denman-Goethals dispute.

Italy in Throes of Bloody Battle in Piave Theater

Italian Headquarters in Northern 9Italy, Nov. 24.—The battle between the Piave and Brenta rivers in the hills leading to the Venetian plain is reaching a climax with a fury of action exceeding antyhing that has thus far taken place on that front. Some positions, after fluctuating in furious mass attacks, in which the Germans joined the Austrians, are again in the hands of the Italians, who made a magnificent charge up the slopes.

Up and down the slopes this fearful carnage is proceeding and four attacks have been swept back over the Italian lines over heaps of enemy dead. Only at one point has the enemy succeeded in making headway with his overwhelming numbers and here the Italians have given ground with the final issue still in doubt.

A detailed description of this most decisive engagement has just been given the correspondent by an eyewitness just returned from the battlefield. He is hardened to these scenes from recent experiences, but says that the bloodiness of the struggle now going on is beyond all precedent.

Against enemy reserves hurled in mass formation the Italians have interposed such heroic resistance that some regiments are reduced to 300 or 400 men. The position at one point was almost encircled on three sides, so that the enemy artillery fire swept at cross-fire through the Italian trench lines and batteries. It was this which required a falling back of about 500 yards until decimated ranks could be reformed for the final charge.

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DEFENSE SOCIETY IS ENDORSED BY MANUFACTURERS

The Omaha Manufacturers' association at Friday's meeting adopted the propositions put out by the American Defense society in its attitude toward the war, and will push them before congress at the next session, or recommend them to the proper authorities. The propositions are:

First—To send an overwhelming force to France.

Second—To intern enemies and enemy sympathizers whose conduct imperils or impedes the war.

Third—To warn Germany that disregard for the rules of warfare will not be endured.

Fourth—Forbid the publication of German language newspapers in America during the period of the war.

Fifth—To declare that a state of war exists between the United States and Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey, the allies of our enemy, Germany.

Sixth—To expel disloyal members of congress.

Seventh—To enact a law forbidding the issuance of new securities except by federal license.

Eighth—Forbid the compulsory study of German in the public schools.

Ninth—To prosecute the war to a satisfactory conclusion and destroy Germany's power for international evil.

LABOR DEFINES ITS ATTITUDE IN WAR

Statement Clarifies Points Formerly in Doubt; Does Not Say There Shall Be No Strikes.

(By Associated Press.)

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 24.—The American Federation of Labor tonight by a unanimous vote adopted a statement of the conditions and principles that must be applied to industrial problems arising from the war so far as union labor is concerned.

The declaration is regarded as in line with the general understanding that has existed between President Wilson and President Gompers, but there are some points that have been in doubt which the statement clarified.

The declaration does not say there shall be no strikes.

"It is advisable," the final paragraph says, "that production shoud not cease because of an apparent injustice or oversight contained in an award, for it is necessary to the nation's production as well as the welfare of the trade union movement that there should be no cessation of work except as a last resort."

The right to organize is claimed as essential to the solution of all problems arising between employer and labor, and equal representation will be asked with the employer on all wage boards and commissions.

Wage conditions, the statement says, will be governed by several vital factors to be considered apart from the increased cost of living, some of these factors mentioned being the comparative wage scale in other establishments in the same district and whether it was reached by collective bargaining between employer and employe.

The convention adjourned at midnight, with the election of officers as the special order of business for tomorrow.

Ohio Issues Coal Cards, Due to Shortage

Youngstown, O., Nov. 24.—Coal cards permitting each holder to purchase only a fixed amount of coal will be issued in Youngstown within a few days, it was announced tonight, after a survey of the small amount of fuel in the city had been made. The Chamber of Commerce announced the shortage here had become so serious that a regulated distribution system is imperative.

JAPS WON'T AID ALLIES UNLESS RUSS DO SHARE

Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 24.—Unless the internal disorders of Russia are subdued and the co-operation of the Russian troops is guaranteed, the entente powers need expect little assistance from their Japanese ally on the eastern front, declared A. Kasama, a member of the Japanese imperial railway commission, in an address here today.

"The sending of Japanese troops to Russia is a serious question confronting the allies," he said.

"It would be of little value to send assistance to Russia as long as the people are quarreling among themselves. Until the co-operation of Russian troops can be obtained, in my opinion, Japan will not send any men to their assistance. But if that co-operation can be guaranteed, Japan will send all the men that are necessary, not only to the eastern front, but to the western front also."

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