

HIT CAPPS FOR BIG DELAY IN U.S. SHIP PROGRAM

Piez Declares Timber Men Fell Down on Contracts, Holding Up Construction of Wood- en Vessels.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 22.—Testimony today of shipping board officials in the senate's investigation of delays to the ship building program, disclosed that the start on construction of fabricated steel ships was delayed two months by the refusal of Rear Admiral Capps, formerly general manager of the emergency fleet corporation, to close contracts negotiated by his predecessor, Major General Goethals, until many alterations in them were made.

Fall Down on Order.
The cumulation of delays, Chairman Hurley admitted under questioning, brought about the recent reorganization of the fleet corporation, which ended in Admiral Capps' resignation. The wooden building program was held back largely, Charles Piez, new general manager of the corporation, testified, by the inability of southern pine producers to deliver timber. The pine producers to deliver timber. The condition of affairs was uncovered by an investigating committee, headed by Mr. Piez, which made a tour of the yards for the shipping. Mr. Piez was asked: "What are you doing to correct the situation?" "We are having fir brought from the Pacific coast."

Must Transfer Contracts.
Many contracts already let for wooden ships in the east will have to be transferred to the west, Mr. Piez added, in order to get the vessels completed, as sufficient timber cannot be had in the east. Senator Nelson directed a long series of questions at Mr. Piez to learn why a practical ship builder would not be a proper man for general manager. "Are you a ship builder?" asked the senator. "No," replied Mr. Piez, "but I have had large experience in organization and manufacturing work."

"Don't you think it would be better to have a practical builder at the head of the shipping program?" "I have engineering training and have a force of experts under me," finally Mr. Piez said, somewhat sharply. "I want you to understand, senator, I did not seek this place. I took it very reluctantly."

Knock Change in Design.
The change in design of the wooden ships after construction was begun drew some criticism from members of the committee. Senator Martin asked Mr. Piez who was responsible. The reply was that the change was made by Civil Engineer Ferris, the corporation's designing expert. "Don't you think that shows incompetency?" asked the senator. "I would say," replied Mr. Piez, "that it was unfortunate."

"Yes," the senator said, "unfortunate ignorance."
The committee, taking up the operation of the ships, sought to develop if the army has handled inefficiently the ships turned over to it. Officials of the board explained that they now are investigating that subject. Rear Admiral Bowles presented figures showing the present progress of ship construction, but the committee decided to keep the statistics confidential.

Packers Held Control of Big Plants on Side

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mours are interested in the Chicago stock yards. Persons connected with the Swift and Morris interests appeared on the lists of directors of the Chicago Junction Railways company and the Chicago Union Stock Yards & Transit company operating the Terminal railways and the stock yards.

These companies are owned by the Chicago Junction Railways and Union Stock Yards company of New Jersey, which in turn is controlled by the Maine corporation, formed by Armour and Prince. Frederick W. Groll, treasurer of Armour & Company, said he could not explain why the other packers should have representation on these concerns.

Groll admitted that Armour & Company had large interests in cotton seed oil plants in Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee, and that Armour and Swift were interested in cattle trade papers in Fort Worth and Denver. Millions of dollars of Chicago real estate, known as the Central Manufacturing district, appeared in a list of assets of the Chicago Junction Railways & Union Stock Yards company. Mr. Heney called particular attention to assets of this company because of replies made to small stockholders when Armour and Prince gained control of the company, that the company's property was in danger of material depreciation in order to get the small investors to surrender their stock and accept a guaranteed 9 per cent dividend.

Worked Both Ends.
In attempting to market the bonds after having gained control of the Junction Railways company, the Chicago Stock Yards company told investors, according to records introduced, that the assets of the Junction company amounted to \$47,000,000, including 800 acres of land in Chicago and 250 miles of belt and terminal railways. Attention was called to large surplus earnings from 1907 to 1911. "It appears that one set of representations was made to get the stock and another to sell the bonds," commented Mr. Heney. Manipulation of share warrants of the Chicago Stock Yards company, payment of dividend checks to dummies and alleged arrangement of

earnings of a subsidiary company to conceal excessive profits also were touched upon today. Records of the Maine corporation showed that redistribution of share warrants was made the same day a federal trade commission investigator asked to examine the books.

Some Immense Profits.
Discussion of profits attracted considerable interest from the commission as to Armour's returns on his investment. Mr. Heney explained that Armour put up \$194,000 of the original \$1,000,000 used to promote the Chicago Stock Yards company and gain control of the Junction company's \$47,000,000 assets.

A letter from Prince advised Armour to take advantage of the reorganization proposition to exchange Junction company stocks for bonds at a rate of two for one, then sell the bonds which would net him a profit of \$117,000. Armour owned 6,500 shares of Junction. Later, it appeared from the records, the packer's investment was cut to \$77,000. Armour has been getting approximately \$77,000 yearly in dividends and besides appears in the records as having borrowed \$200,000 of the original million from the Maine corporation. The interest charged was not shown. He obtained for his \$194,000 a total of 15,520 shares, par value \$1,552,000 of the corporation, which is capitalized at \$8,000,000. Prince appears as the other large stockholder in the Chicago Stock Yards company and the original plan of the company, introduced in evidence, was to give \$4,400,000 in stock "to the packers" in place of rebates and bonuses paid them up to that time. Efforts to prove that other packers, particularly Swift and Morris, received such stock, have not been successful and will be continued when the commission resumes the hearings.

Another Air Raid Made On English Coast Towns

London, Dec. 22.—Another raid has been attempted by the Germans against English coast towns. One hostile airplane was forced to descend.

ESTABROOK LAWYER AND ORATOR, DEAD

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father was appointed attorney general of Nebraska in 1855. Mr. Estabrook had made his home in Tarrytown, with his brother-in-law, Colonel Clowery, former president of the Western Union.

Part in Boyd Case.
It was while practicing law in Omaha that Mr. Estabrook, associated with General Cowin and A. H. Garland, ex-attorney general of the United States, conducted the case of Governor James E. Boyd in the historic Boyd-Thayer contest of 1891, involving the governorship of Nebraska, which excited national interest and in which a precedent was set involving the law governing citizenship. In the argument before the United States supreme court it was Mr. Estabrook who presented the points upon which that high court reversed the contrary decision of the Nebraska supreme court and restored the executive office to Governor Boyd.

Counsel for Western Union.
While in Omaha Mr. Estabrook became local counsel for the Western Union Telegraph company and in 1896 was given a similar position with the company in Chicago, negotiating his removal to that city. Six years later he was made general counsel for the company and removed to New York, where he became a member of the legal firm of Lowden, Estabrook & Davis. He was recognized as an attorney of great resource, logic and rare oratorical powers. Among his more important cases while in Chicago was one involving the first investigation ever made into the operations of a stock exchange clearing house, wherein the legal fact was established that transactions on change were not gambling. **Recognized as Orator.** It was not until 40 years of age, that Mr. Estabrook's power as an orator became generally known. An

oration before the Marquette club in 1892 on "Lincoln" gave him national prominence. In Omaha Mr. Estabrook was active in public movements, his speech before a meeting to organize a citizens' government made November 1, 1895, at the Coliseum, being one notable instance.

He was orator also at the semi-centennial celebration of the Kansas-Nebraska act at Omaha, June 10, 1904. Before numerous republican conventions and gatherings, his addresses were of such notable character as to win national comment. Mr. Estabrook was married to Miss Clara Campbell of Omaha in 1879. Their daughter, Blanche, was married to Karl G. Roebeling of Trenton, N. Y., member of the John A. Roebeling's Sons company, builders of Brooklyn bridge.

KIDNAPER OF KEET BABY ADMITS CRIME

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alleged confession, the drug having been administered by the "Mysterious Riley" to put the child to sleep to keep it quiet. Riley is named by Piersol as the leader of the gang and the man who plotted the abduction, but he says the man now under arrest and held for the Springfield authorities is not the right Riley. **Says Riley Took Baby.** According to the signed confession, Piersol admits his part in the abduction but says it was Riley who climbed into the window of the Keet home and took the baby. Riley handed the child to Dick Carter, according to Piersol, and the latter gave it to a woman, a member of the band. Piersol took an active part in the abduction, he admits, but declares he, at no time, touched the child. He was stationed at the Keet home, he says, with Kletus Adams, Maxie Ad-

ams, Dick Carter and others he names, who have not yet been arrested. The baby was taken to a deserted house on the Greene and Christian county line and there, Piersol says, he took food for the child and guards the next day. He declares he does not know when the child was removed to the Gresham house, but thinks it was taken there the night after it was abducted, when a rain and electric storm occurred.

Piersol knew nothing of the plot to kidnap the child until Cletus Adams "put it up to him," according to the confession, and he denies writing the ransom letters which experts swore he penciled. The postcard mailed to the father of the kidnaped baby, the last word he received from the abductors, was mailed by Taylor Adams, Piersol says.

To Kidnap Others.
Piersol denies knowledge of the death of the child until after his arrest. In the confession he says a member of the kidnaping band not under arrest called on him at the county jail and told him of the administration of the laudanum and the resultant death of the baby. "Riley is going to throw it in the well at the Gresham place," he says the visitor told him.

Maxie Adams, 37 years old, charged with the attempt to kidnap C. A. Clement, and recently released from jail, was the first person to be arrested as the result of Piersol's confession. He also expressed a desire to confess, it is said, but no announcement of a statement from him has been made. The confession alleges other abduction plots were contemplated by the gang. It was planned to kidnap J. Holland Keet, father of the kidnaped child, at the time he paid the \$6,000 ransom, Piersol says, and Ed L. Sanford, vice president of the Holland Banking company and chairman of the state highway commission, also was marked as a victim. Sanford, Piersol says, was to be held for a \$100,000 ransom.

Chinamen Expelled From Austria.
Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 23.—Forty-five Chinamen, expelled from Austria on account of China's declara-

Queen Lili's Latest Will Set Aside as a Forgery

Honolulu, T. H., Dec. 23.—A purported 1917 will of the late Queen Liliuokalani, bequeathing the major part of her estate to "Princess" Theresa Belliveau, was thrown out of court today by Judge C. W. Ashford, who stated from the bench that all evidence and his own knowledge convinced him it was a forgery. Sam Kamakaia, a preacher, swore he signed as a witness to the late will in his own home and not at the bedside of the queen. H. Keakoha, a second witness to the purported will, gave similar testimony in repudiating preceding affidavits. Kamakaia stated that "Princess" Theresa offered him the bribe of a new church if he signed.

A 1909 will of the queen, containing a deed of trust in favor of Theresa Belliveau, said to be only a distant relative of Liliuokalani, remains correct today by Jonah ("Prince Cupid") Kanihanoale, congressional delegate from Hawaii, on the ground that the queen was mentally incompetent at the time of its execution.

Germans Work For Teuton Republic

Washington, Dec. 23.—The committee on public information tonight gave out another article written by Germans and circulated in Germany through the efforts of German republicans in Switzerland who were working for the establishment of a republic in their native land. The article declares that general ruin prevails in Germany as a result of the war and urges the overthrow of the nation's war lords.

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