

Shipping Board Is Charged With Needless Waste

Machinery and Equipment Left Exposed to Weather Months After Armistice, Witness Declares.

New York, Nov. 16.—Machinery and ship building equipment, valued at millions of dollars, was left out in the open to deteriorate in value months after the plants were closed down with the ending of the war, Paul H. MacNeil, a former resident engineer of the shipping board in the south Atlantic district, testified before the Walsh committee investigating shipping board affairs.

MacNeil said he was stationed at Savannah and had five months under his supervision, his immediate chief being R. H. Dillingham at Jacksonville, the district plant engineer. Just what his own authority was he did not know, he testified, but he said he "assumed a great deal in the endeavor to straighten out tangles."

He said the yards were well organized, "better perhaps than the emergency fleet forces, for they generally could get the better of the government organization." He brought into his testimony, the name of the Terry ship yards and the National Ship Building company and a marine railway organization, over which he had supervision. He said that the Terry people had a trust loan from the fleet corporation to be used in ship construction and that over his protests money in this fund was used to finance a subsidiary organization engaged in dry dock work, when their contracts were only about one-third complete.

No Precautions Taken.

Speaking of the National Ship work there had shut down previous building company, the witness said it was to his arrival on the scene.

"I found nothing had been done to take care of the properties and valuable machinery was left uncovered to the weather," he said. "He invoiced the properties as to quantity and percentage depreciation but not as to value. His 'guess' at its value was between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000. He also asserted that in the auditing of the affairs of the plant 101 numbered vouchers could not be accounted for."

Another point he made was that equipment ordered previous to the closing of the plant was still coming to the yard. He tried to have it stopped and suggested it was new and could be returned to the vendors by payment of the freight only. "They told me to keep my hands off and let the machinery come," MacNeil declared.

Equipment Exposed.

The Terry yard, he testified, had a complete equipment and contracts for several tankers and composite ships, none of which was completed. He valued the equipment of this

yard at about \$1,500,000 and added that while there was sufficient lumber at hand to build sheds to protect the exposed machinery, it was not done. The marine railway, he testified, was built on land owned by a private individual, who had an agreement for rental of his property, with no specified amount named. The railway was built with emergency fleet funds, amounting to about \$100,000 with an additional \$12,000 worth of filling supplied by the government for another operation.

This property, he said, was in controversy, and it was his opinion that under the laws of Georgia, it was "owned by the man who had title to the land." The rental asked, he understood, amounted to about 10 times the appraised value of the plant.

The witness said he had no criticism of the manner in which the yards under his jurisdiction were handled while they were active, but he did criticize the manner in which the financing was taken care of.

Negroes Sentenced to Die for Part in Race Riots to Pay Penalty

Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 16.—No clemency will be shown in the cases of six negroes under sentence of death for participation in the Elaine, Ark., riots last year, and the fixing of dates for their execution awaits only official notice from the United States supreme court that the cases will not be reviewed by that tribunal, Governor Charles H. Brough, announced today.

The governor said he had reached a definite conclusion that these negroes were guilty of murder in the first degree and that the sentence imposed by the courts of Arkansas would not be commuted by him. The statement was made following a conference with several residents of Elaine who urged the governor to allow the sentences to stand.

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Early Resident Of Nebraska Dies

Mrs. Mary Howard Prichard, Wife of Frontier Pastor, Succumbs in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Mary Howard Prichard, 85, for many years a resident of Omaha, died in Los Angeles, Cal., November 12, after several months' illness.

Mrs. Prichard came to Nebraska from Indiana in 1857 as the bride of Rev. Martin Prichard, a Methodist minister, who for 20 years was prominent in the Methodist Episcopal conference. He died in Peru, in 1877, being at that time and for several years preceding a presiding elder.

Mrs. Prichard is survived by three sons, George A., Howard and Elmer, all of Los Angeles, and one daughter, Mrs. Albert H. Kayser of San Diego. Mrs. T. W. Blackburn, her eldest daughter died in 1898, and Joseph G. Prichard, her second son, died in 1917. Two other children died in infancy. Five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren also survive.

Mrs. Prichard was well-known to all the early settlers of Nebraska, having resided in Fremont, Bellevue, Mt. Pleasant, Pawnee City, Falls City and Peru when there were pioneer villages. Her children were all born in Nebraska.

Few women of those pioneer days were more active in the church and none more popular among the people. She came to Nebraska a bride of 19. She lived the life of an itinerant frontier preacher's wife for 20 years. When her husband died she was left with a family of six children, only two of age sufficient to make their own way in the world. With that marvelous skill for which the mothers of men are noted, she kept her family together and saw them all grown, married and settled in life. Then she lived among them, beloved and welcome.

Her funeral was held in Los Angeles, where many of her old Nebraska acquaintances now reside.



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